

# THE LITERARY GAZETTE

AND  
Journal of the Belles Lettres, Science, and Art.

N° 1990.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1855.

Price Fourpence.  
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ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, TRAFALGAR SQUARE.  
**NOTICE TO ARTISTS.**—All Works of Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, or Engravings, intended for the ensuing EXHIBITION at the ROYAL ACADEMY, must be sent in, on Monday, the 9th, or Tuesday, the 10th of April next, after which time no Work can possibly be received, nor can any Works be received which have already been publicly exhibited.

**FRAMES.**—All Pictures and Drawings must be in Gilt Frames. Oil Paintings under glass, and Drawings with wide margins are inadmissible. Excessive breadth in frames as well as projecting mouldings may prevent Pictures remaining in the situation they otherwise merit. The other Regulations necessary to be observed may be obtained at the Royal Academy.

JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A., Sec.

Every possible care will be taken of Works sent for exhibition, but the Royal Academy will not hold itself accountable in any case of injury or loss, nor can it undertake to pay the carriage of any package.

The prices of Works to be disposed of may be communicated to the Secretary.

**A RT-UNION OF LONDON.** (By Royal Charter.)—Prize-holders select for themselves from the public Exhibition. Every Subscriber of ONE GUINEA will have, besides the chance of a Prize, an Impression of a Plate of "A WATER PARTY," by J. C. WILKINSON, A.R.A.; and a J. Chalon, R.A., and a Quarterly Volume of Thirty Illustrations of "Le Childe Harold." The Prints are ready for delivery, and the Volume may be seen at the office. Subscription closes 31st instant.

GEORGE GODWIN, | Honorary  
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446, West Strand, March 1, 1855.

**ARTISTS' GENERAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION** for the Relief of Decayed Artists, their Widows and Orphans, Instituted 1814, incorporated 1842, under the immediate protection of HER MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY THE QUEEN. Patron—H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT, K.G. The Nobility, Patrons, and Subscribers are respectfully informed that the FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY DINNER will take place in Freemasons' Hall, on Saturday, the 1st instant. The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor in the Chair. Subscribers—Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Muggeridge and Mr. Sheriff Croxley.

W. J. ROPER, Assistant Secretary.

**D PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.**—The Exhibition WILL CLOSE, March 24. The Second Annual Exhibition of this Society is now open, in the Rooms of the Society of Photographers, Pall Mall, in the Morning from Ten to Five, and in the Evening from Seven to Ten. Admission, One Shilling. Catalogue, Sixpence.

BELL SMITH, Secretary.

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.**—The office of JUNIOR ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN in the University Library, salary £100 per annum, is now vacant.—Candidates are requested to forward testimonials of character and literary qualifications to the Rev. Dr. Teppe, before the 1st of May, 1855, from whom further particulars may be learned.

**HULL SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY.**—LIBRARIAN WANTED.—The office of Librarian to the Hull Subscription Library, established in 1775, will become vacant on the 9th day of May next. The Library is kept open from the 1st of June to the 1st of June, from Nine o'clock in the forenoon to Nine o'clock in the evening; and from the 1st of July to the 1st of September, from Nine o'clock in the forenoon to Six o'clock in the evening. The Librarian's salary is fixed at £100 per annum, and he will be aided in his duties by a Sub-librarian and an Assistant. Gentlemen who may be desirous of becoming candidates for the office, are requested to forward their applications, accompanied by testimonials as to character and qualifications, to the Library, addressed to the President, CHARLES FROST, Esq., F.S.A., on or before the 10th day of April next.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1855.

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Two centuries ago Sweden was the great power of the North. Russia had scarcely begun her successful career of aggression and conquest. Europe yet rang with the renown of Gustavus Adolphus, and the heroic troops with whom he conquered in the Thirty Years' War. During that eventful struggle England, under the first two Stuarts, had borne no part worthy of herself or of the great cause that was at stake. Gustavus was the chief and hero of the Protestant league, and Sweden was the umpire among the nations of Europe. The wisdom and statesmanship of Oxenstiern maintained the position which his country had gained by arms. When England was restored under Cromwell to her place among the nations, the Protector saw the importance of forming a firm alliance with Sweden. Queen Christina was then on the throne, and the aged Oxenstiern, though in retirement, swayed the national councils. Cromwell, whose greatness as a ruler was shown in nothing more than in the right choice of his instruments, selected Whitelocke for this important embassy. Whitelocke had given full adherence to the new form of government, but he retained among republicans much of courtly feeling and manner. How much Cromwell considered him suited for the office of Swedish ambassador may be seen in the opportunity used to induce his undertaking the mission. He wrote with his own hand this letter :—

"For the Right Honourable the Lord Whitelocke, one of the Commissioners of the Seal. These."

"My Lord,—The Council of State, having thoughts of putting your Lordship to the trouble of being extraordinary ambassador to the Queen of Switzland, did think fit not to impose that service upon you without first knowing your own freedom thereunto; wherefore they were pleased to command our services in making this address to your Lordship; and hereby we can assure you of a very large confidence in your honour, and abilities for this employment. To which we, begging your answer, do rest, my Lord, your humble servants,

"O. CROMWELL,

September 2, 1653.

"GIL PICKERING.

Whitelocke afterwards gives an account of a long personal interview, in which, amidst much other conversation, the following is recorded :—

"Whitelocke. The business being of so great concernment (as indeed it is), there is the more need of a person qualified with abilities for so great a charge, which I have not, as your Excellency and all that know me will conclude; and I know best my own defects. I want experience in foreign affairs and matters of state; in language and ceremony, of which the Queen is so great a judge, and

a lady that will soon discern my disabilities, and make advantage thereof; nor will she look upon me as a person of eminency fit to be sent to her. So that (with submission to the judgment of your Excellency and the Council) I must conclude myself altogether unfit for this very weighty and high employment, whereof divers other in the nation are far more capable than I am.

"Cromwell. The Council have pitched upon you unanimously, as the fittest man in the nation for this service; we know your abilities, having long conversed with you; we know you have languages, and have travelled, and understand the interest of Christendom; and I have known you in the army to endure hardships, and to be healthful and strong, and of mettle, discretion, and parts most fit for this employment: you are so indeed; really no man is so fit for it as you are. We know you to be a gentleman of a good family, related to persons of honour; and your present office of Commissioner of the Seal will make you the more acceptable to her. I do earnestly desire you to undertake it, wherein you will do an act of great merit, and advantage to the Commonwealth, as great as any one member of it can perform; and which will be as well accepted by them. The business is very honourable, and exceeding likely to have good success. Her public ministers here have already agreed upon most of the material and main points of the business; if it had not been such an employment, we would not have put you upon it: the business of trade, and of the funds, and touching the Dutch, are such as there cannot be any of greater consequence."

The difficulties of Whitelocke were overcome, including various domestic and personal matters, which he pleaded earnestly, but rather, as it turned out, with a view to driving a good bargain with the Commonwealth, than from any real aversion to the duty, or misgiving as to his qualifications. At a subsequent interview with Cromwell, the "supplies" form the chief subject of negotiation; and great anxiety is also shown that his political position might suffer no detriment during his absence :—

"Cromwell. I will engage to take particular care of those matters myself, and that you shall neither want supplies nor anything that is fit for you: you shall be set out with as much honour as ever any ambassador was from England. I shall hold myself particularly obliged to you if you will undertake it; and will stick as close to you as your skin is to your flesh. You shall want nothing either for your honour and equipage, or for power and trust to be reposed in you, or for correspondence and supplies when you are abroad; I promise you, my Lord, you shall not; I will make it my business to see it done. The Parliament and Council, as well as myself, will take it very well, and thankfully, from you, to accept of this employment; and all people, especially the good people of the nation, will be much satisfied with it: and therefore, my Lord, I make it again my earnest request to you, to accept this honourable employment."

And after the final acceptance of the office, Cromwell added :—

"My Lord, I do most heartily thank you for accepting the employment, whereby you have testified a very great respect and favour to me, and affection to the Commonwealth, which will be very well taken by them; and I assure you, that it is so grateful to me, who upon my particular request have prevailed with you, that I shall never forget this favour, but endeavour to requite it to you and yours; really, my Lord, I shall: and I will acquaint the Council with it, that we may desire further conference with you."

Whitelocke departed in October, 1653, with the commission of Oliver, *Protector Liberae Angliae Reipublica*; and the squadron with which he sailed was put under his command by an order from the Admiralty, under the

hands and seals of "Jo. Blake and Geo. Monk." Of the events and success of the embassy we do not propose to give any account, but we select extracts in which notices occur of some of the great characters with whom he came in contact. It was in the palace at Upsala that Whitelocke first saw Queen Christina:—

"He perceived the Queen sitting, at the upper end of the room, upon her chair of state of crimson velvet, with a canopy of the same over it. Some ladies stood behind the Queen, and a very great number of lords, officers, and gentlemen of the Court filled the room; upon the foot-carpet, and near the Queen, stood the senators and other great officers, all uncovered; and none but persons of quality were admitted into that chamber. Whitelocke's gentlemen were all let in, and a lane made by them for him to pass through to the Queen.

"As soon as he came within this room he put off his hat, and then the Queen put off her cap, after the fashion of men, and came two or three steps forward upon the foot-carpet. This, and her being covered and rising from her seat, caused Whitelocke to know her to be the Queen, which otherwise had not been easy to be discerned, her habit being of plain grey stuff; her petticoat reached to the ground, over that a jacket such as men wear, of the same stuff, reaching to her knees; on her left side tied with crimson ribbon, she wore the jewel of the Order of Amaranta; her cuffs ruffled *à la mode*; no gorget or band, but a black scarf about her neck, tied before with a black ribbon, as soldiers and mariners sometimes use to wear; her hair was braided, and hung loose upon her head; she wore a black velvet cap lined with sables, and turned up after the fashion of the country, which she used to put off and on as men do their hats.

"Her countenance was sprightly, but somewhat pale; she had much of majesty in her demeanour, and though her person were of the smaller size, yet her mien and carriage was very noble.

"Whitelocke made his three congees, came up to her and kissed her hand, which ceremony all ambassadors used to this Queen; then she put on her cap, making a ceremony to Whitelocke, who also put on his hat, then calling to his secretary, took of him his credentials, and putting off his hat (at which the Queen also pulled off her cap), Whitelocke told her in English (which Mr. De la Marche interpreted in French) that the Parliament had commanded him to present those letters to her Majesty. She took them with great civility, and read their superscription, but did not then open them.

"After some pause, Whitelocke began and spake to the Queen in English, Mr. De la Marche, by his appointment, interpreting every sentence as he spake it, in French, which was desired from Whitelocke, and alleged to be the constant practice of that Court.

"The Queen was very attentive whilst he spake, and coming up close to him, by her looks and gestures (as was supposed) would have daunted him; but those who have been conversant in the late great affairs in England are not so soon as others appalled with the presence of a young lady and her servants. At the time of speaking, both the Queen and Whitelocke were uncovered; and whenever he in his speech had occasion to use ceremony, the Queen answered it with her courtesy."

The Queen gave him a long audience in private soon after, and conversed with great freedom for two hours on matters relating to the state of England. Of Cromwell she said :—

"Your General is one of the gallantest men in the world; never were such things done as by the English in your late war. Your General hath done the greatest things of any man in the world; the Prince of Condé is next to him, but short of him. I have as great a respect and honour for your General as for any man alive, and I pray let him know as much from me."

But it is of Oxenstiern that the memorials will be read with deepest interest. At the time of Whitelocke's visit—

"He was a tall, proper, straight, handsome old man, of the age of seventy-one years; his habit was black cloth, a close coat lined with fur, a velvet cap on his head furred, and no hat, a cloak, his hair grey, his beard broad and long, his countenance sober and fixed, and his carriage grave and civil.

"He spoke Latin, plain and fluent and significant; and though he could, yet would not speak French, saying he knew no reason why that nation should be so much honoured more than others as to have their language used by strangers; but he thought the Latin more honourable and more copious, and fitter to be used, because the Romans had been masters of so great a part of the world, and yet at present that language was not peculiar to any people.

In his conferences he would often mix pleasant stories with his serious discourses, and took delight in recounting former passages of his life, and actions of his King, and would be very large excusing his *senilis garrulitas*, as he termed it, the talkativeness of old-age; but there was great pleasure to hear his discourses, and much wisdom and knowledge to be gathered from them."

Many notes of his conversations with Whitelocke are recorded, but we have space only for two or three brief passages. Speaking of his retirement from public affairs, the Chancellor said:—

"I had been so much wearied out in public and great actions, that this retirement and quiet proved the greater contentment to me. Business was a burden, and much company irksome, yet I was able to spend some of my time in study; and chiefly, I may say solely, I did apply myself to the study of the Bible, wherein is all wisdom and the greatest delight to be found, and much more in the practice of that divine wisdom. You are a much younger man than I am, and possibly may have the like occasion of retirement as I had, but do not doubt of being in favour again; and I counsel you to make the study and practice of the Word of God your chief contentment and delight, as it will be to every soul that savours the truths of God, which infinitely excel all worldly things."

At this meeting the Chancellor, we are told, "inquired much concerning Cromwell's age, health, children, family, temper, &c.; and said that Cromwell was one of the gallantest men that this age had brought forth, and the things which he had done argued as much courage and wisdom in him as any action that the world had seen for many years." In the last interview that Whitelocke had with the Chancellor, the conversation turned chiefly on the difference between the English parliament and the Swedish Ricksdag. The ambassador had been present a short time before on the occasion of Queen Christina's public abdication. Referring to this, Whitelocke says to Oxenstiern:—

"Whitelocke. I expected to have heard my father, the Ricks-Chancellor, to have made an harangue in the Ricksdag, to have acquainted them, as it is with us, with the causes of their meeting.

"Chancellor. I confess it belongs to my place to have done it; but, by reason of an oath I had taken to my king, to endeavour to keep the crown on his daughter's head, and this assembly was called that she might resign it; therefore I desired to be excused from making that proposal.

"Wh. Indeed her Majesty spake herself with an excellent grace and spirit, which was a wonder to see it done by a young lady to so great and grave an assembly; and the matter of her speech, as it was interpreted to me, was pertinent and full of weight.

"Chanc. Indeed she spake very well and materially, and like a prince,

"Wh. I am sorry my time calls me away from further enjoyment of my father's excellent conversation.

"Chanc. I shall be glad if my noble son would afford me more of his company, in which I take so much contentment.

"Wh. My journey to-morrow hastens me away, and occasions you less trouble.

"Chanc. I pray assure the Protector of the respect and high value I have for him, and of my devoted mind to serve him in anything within my power in this kingdom.

"Wh. You have been pleased largely to testify this in my transactions, and your noble favours and respects to your son.

"Chanc. You may be confident of my affection and love to you; and I desire you to be a friend to my countrymen in England, and to take upon you their patronage in all just causes.

"Wh. I shall be ready upon all occasions to perform all good offices to your Excellence and to your family, and to all of this nation; and shall satisfy the Protector of your affections for him, and of your kindness to his servant.

"Chanc. I am now an old man, and whilst I continue alive I shall do all that lies in my power to serve the Protector and the Commonwealth of England, and shall embrace your Excellence with a special bond of friendship, and will leave it in charge to my sons, when I am dead, to do the same.

"Wh. I shall also enjoin my children to continue that obligation of friendship which I have contracted with your Excellence and your family.

"Chanc. I shall but add this further, to pray to God that of His mercy He would vouchsafe to you a prosperous return to your own country, and that you may find there all your family and friends in a comfortable and happy condition."

Oxenstiern died about three months afterwards, in September, 1654. The conversations with Cromwell after Whitelocke's return to England are extremely interesting. The ambassador's own character does not gain from close acquaintance. Throughout this journal his vanity and self-importance are ludicrously shown. Some passages are quite Pepys-like in this respect. History also records that, like Waller and Dryden and other time-servers, Whitelocke became a fawning courtier at the Restoration, and joined in the abuse of the Protector.

*Studies from Nature.* By Dr. Hermann Masius. Translated by Charles Boner. Illustrated by E. Hasse, of Leipsic. Chapman and Hall.

MR. BONER, the author of an admirable volume on 'Chamois Hunting in the Mountains of Bavaria' (L. G. 1853, p. 568), has now introduced to English readers a fresh and charming book of popular natural history by a German writer. They are termed 'Studies from Nature,' but the details of observation are pleasantly mingled with literature and poetry, in a style to which few scientific naturalists attain. We rarely quote from the preface of a book, but in this case, where the translator is introducing an unknown foreigner, we shall allow Mr. Boner to give his own account of what he has done. After describing his own acquaintance with the book, he says:—

"And it is with the same pleasurable emotion, and the same certainty of a kindly reception, that I now make English readers acquainted with the following pages: a work that has delighted me, on account of the contented mind which it betokens, a sympathy with all that is gentle or beautiful, and its ever latent, yet ever present, genial humour, which, like the bright gold sand in the beds of rivers, is only seen when you look down into the clear deep water.

"And then, too, what graphic descriptions of Nature!—equally charming, whether the subject be the venerable Oak, with its stern historical associations, or the Linden of the village green and of many a village festival; the Marsh by moonlight, where all is drear and eerie; or the willow by the rivulet on the peaceful pasturage, sunny, bright, and breezy as an English idyl of Constable.

"The book must please,—its winsomeness is irresistible. For though it may have lost in the translation, there is so much of grace in every thought, that be the garb what it may, its native comeliness will still appear.

"I am not fortunate enough to be personally acquainted with the author; nevertheless, I anticipate with lively satisfaction being able to surprise him with this illustrated edition of his work; for I think he will be glad to see how heartily the artist has entered into his subject, realizing the forms and giving the very spirit of character which Dr. Masius has described. The woodcuts are from the *atelier* of Mr. Bürkner, of Dresden, having been first drawn on the blocks by Mr. Hasse himself; and I am happy to be thus enabled to contribute to the diffusion of the works of two German artists, both of whom deserve to be known abroad.

"The Notes at the end are, by far, not the least interesting part of the book. They are full of the quaintest information,—old customs, long-forgotten rhymes, droll stories, classical allusions; but all is given so pleasantly, that erudite learning seems rather to be a mere wile and a pastime, than associated, as we are accustomed to fancy, with dry study and grave pedantic mien. Never did schoolman, never surely did German professor, read to us texts from mouldy volumes and ancient chronicles with so cheery a voice!"

We must give one or two short extracts, which will justify, in some measure, this unusual praise. The meditations of Dr. Masius are on diversified subjects, the most amusing being on the habits and the characters of birds. The following panegyric on the cock is worthy of a place beside Beranger's famous ode on the symbol of the French Republic:—

"Verily the cock is born to govern, and he is every inch of him a king. He is the prince of birds. Slowly and with measured step he raises one foot and then the other; oftentimes pausing in the middle of a step, and casting his eye attentively around, that nothing may escape him. If he goeth under an archway, through which a rider might pass, he still bends his head lest he spoil the adornment of his comb; so sensible is he of inner greatness. Whether he moves or is at rest, all displays nobility of manner. With how thoughtful an air he raises his experienced eye to the cloud-covered windows of the firmament, or to the lonely, pale lunar hieroglyphic in the bright morning sky! But he is most of all superb when he is preparing to sing after the manner of his fathers. He flies on the roof, the right foot is placed in advance of the left, which remains half drawn up. This is the heroic step, the real rhetorician attitude. His whole frame assumes a more exalted expression; the neck and the feathers of the tail become erect, the breast swells, the wings clash loudly together, the eye half-closes in ecstasy. Thus, with the pathos and grace, and with all the enraptured enjoyment of the genuine virtuoso, does Chanticleer lift up his clear defiant voice. \* \* \*

"His cry soundeth afar like clangling metal. The evil demons of night fly before it: the seaman hears it on the waves, and the wayfarer on the solitary path, and joy enters into their heart, for it bears witness to the cheering neighbourhood of man. It awakens the student to early study, and the recluse to prayer; it scares the evil-doer, calls the sinner to repentance, announces to the husbandman the refreshing gift of rain, and to the sufferer on his bed the glad return of morning. When Orion goes forth on his rounds, and the dew is still hanging in pearl-drops on the wings of the other birds, he is already on the move, and lets his

rejoicing notes be heard. Verily the cock is a messenger of blessing, and he can never be lauded enough. His call rends asunder the golden deceptions of sleep, and rouses the slothful limbs to work, conflict, and victory. For this reason, no animal has been so feared, none so exalted. The pious architect placed his likeness high up on the pinnacle of the church-tower above the cross, in order that the watchman there might have near him the giver of warning and the alarm; and wise teachers put it for an ornament on the cover of the horn-book, as a warning to youth that he who seeks after good must begin betimes. But the soldier placed him on the ramparts, that he might call to and relieve him at the right hour when on guard. And that is the cock's most honourable position: that is his fitting place. For he is himself a warrior; valiant, prudent, enterprising, enduring, and watchful of his honour, like no other animal. \* \* \*

"All honour then to the cock for his good example. Seven virtues belonged to the good knight and true, seven also are possessed by the perfect cock: he is prudent, wise, valiant, honourable, gentle-mannered, full of love, and skilled in governing."

From a chapter of very different caste we quote the following sketches of the Birch tree:—

"Bidding defiance to frost and tempest, to the lightning and even to corruption, thriving alike in the morass or in barren sand, the Birch demands but a span of earth on which to fasten its roots. On the grassy plains of North Germany it stands in scattered groups and copses; in the glens of Norway it is to be found forming long tracts of gleaming wood: and even where the Kjolen mountain ridge is covered with eternal snows, the Birch may be seen clinging to the niggard soil. There, on the outermost frontier of vegetation, it bends over the rock, like the mourning genius of the vegetable world; while fresh, verdant life sinks back into the lap of Nature, whence it struggled into existence. It is the dwarf Birch (*Betula nana*) whose seeds are the sole winter nourishment of the lemming and the white partridge. Very possibly the region of the Birch extended formerly further north than now. In Iceland, at least, there stood in ancient times a dense wood of the lofty *Betula alba*, reaching from the sea-shore to the foot of the mountains; thus flinging a warm mantle round the then fruitful island, though now scarce a vestige is to be recognised in scattered bush and shrub. Stories are still told of charcoal-burners who here built their kilns; and in many places it is sufficient merely to strike the spade into the broad strata of turf, in order to chance upon stems of more than half a foot in thickness."

"The Birch may be said to be feminine, if not effeminate, in character; although the poet, remembering the tribute which once the pedagogical tree demanded of him, calls it severe and bloodthirsty. With graceful waving outline the round slender stem rises upwards; slightly bent at top, yet opposing with pliant hardness the violence of the elements. Below, it is true, furrows, overgrown with grey moss, rend the smooth, satin-like bark, which gleams through the green leaves;

"As upon a clear, bright night  
The moonshine had been left there."—Lenau.

"Not a single powerful stem projects from the tough wood; on the contrary, a delicate network of twigs falls around it in long tresses, which, growing less dense toward the summit, causes the top of the tree to end in a feathery plume. There is not even room for the nest of the smallest bird; so airily is this branch-work raised. And then that dim gleaming of the leaves, spreading over the whole; that fine, transparent veil which, floating continually to and fro, and causing the air to vibrate, scatters abroad its spice! Is it not as though a wood-nymph, coy and languishing, were about to venture forth?

"Moreover it is the bowed form of the Birch, and the restless trembling of its long-stemmed leaves, calling forth a dreamy, even melancholy

mood, which have procured for this tree the name of Weeping Birch. For this reason it has become in Germany, like the cypress in the south, the ornament of churchyards: and thus, as a green mourning banner—as a lamenting *Finis Polonie!*—it stands yonder in the North, over the grave of a fallen nation. When seen in the twilight of moonshine, the Birch-grove produces a mood of higher excitement and expectancy. The dim shadowy outline of the tree, the ghostly paleness of its stem, moves the mind with visionary fancies. In early Spring, when the glimmer of the young leaves plays around its branches, then only does the Birch breathe a sunny, refreshing air of pleasantness: it brings us the first long-expected greeting of re-awakening life. Yet the advancing Autumn, which changes its foliage to a decided yellow, causes this tree to tell as an important feature in the landscape.

"Different in character is the Birch of the Moor (*Betula pubescens*). Its boughs, mounting upwards with greater freedom, give it a gay, gladsome appearance; the slight bend of the branches alone reminds of the delicate character of the Weeping Birch, as their less dense foliage flutters about in bustling unrest. A serene, one might almost say a maidenly, grace is the character of this tree, and the villagers love to lead their dance around its fragrant May-time verdure. It causes you to rejoice like the sight of a lovely, fair-haired child; yet it is more apt than its graver sister to be lost in scanty insignificance. When forming single groups, rising like islands from the green of the meadows, or when more widely spread out over a large surface, seemingly reaching hands to each other, or, again, when serving as a contrast to oaks, firs, &c., these trees prove an effective feature in the landscape. This is especially the case on the peat-moors of Holland, whose gloomy loneliness is cheered but by their colouring. As a wood however, they are too insignificant and too monotonous in tone."

The notes at the end of the volume contain many pleasing anecdotes, and are full of classical and legendary lore. In the illustrations the artist has been successful in catching the spirit of the author's text, as well as accurate in his drawings of the objects of natural history.

#### *The Life of Horace Greeley. Editor of the New York Tribune.* By J. Parton. New York: Mason Brothers. Low and Co.

In connexion with the expected changes in our own newspaper system, this book contains much matter of public and practical importance. While it presents the biography of a remarkable man, whom some of his countrymen regard as the Franklin of his day, it will be chiefly interesting to English readers from the information it gives as to the history and condition of American journalism. To publish any part of the biography of a man during his lifetime is rarely to be approved; but the author defends himself with the remark, that "if the lives of politicians like Tyler, Pierce, and others, may be written in their lifetime to subserve the interests of party, why may not the life of Horace Greeley, in the hope of subserving the interests of the country?" Four or five years ago Horace Greeley, then on a visit to Europe, was asked to give evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons on the publication of parliamentary papers. He afforded much useful information as to the usages and experience of Congress in this matter, and incidentally his evidence threw much light on the nature and influence of American popular literature. The cheap newspapers with which the country abounds he considered as an essential means towards

the diffusion of popular education—an object of equal importance with the political purposes for which they are directly established. The evidence of one who had himself long laboured successfully and honourably in this field was received with much consideration by the committee, and a favourable impression was left of the shrewdness, ability, and integrity of Horace Greeley. The story of his life, now published by an admiring friend, though somewhat diffuse in its details, will be read with much interest. How he has, by dint of honest industry, persevering toil, and bold independence, raised himself to a position of high influence in his native country, this memoir fully describes. We cannot afford space to give even an outline of his career, but an extract from the general summary at the close of the memoir will probably induce a desire for a perusal of the book. After some anecdotes of his domestic life, and of his somewhat eccentric habits, there is in the following passage a warmly eulogistic, but we believe a faithful account of his character and his public work:—

"Every race has its own idea respecting what is best in the character of a man. The English admire 'pluck'; the French, adroitness; the Germans, perseverance; the Italians, craft. But when a Yankee would bestow his most special commendation upon another, he says, 'That is a man, sir, who generally succeeds in what he undertakes.' Properly interpreted, this is high, perhaps the highest, praise; for a man who succeeds in doing what he tries to do, must have the sense to choose enterprises suited to his abilities and circumstances. This praise, it is true, is frequently given to men whose objects are extremely petty—making a fortune, for example; but if those objects were such as they could attain, if enterprises of a higher nature were really beyond their abilities, how much wiser is it in them to attempt petty objects only! But whatever may be the value of the American eulogy—and a Yankee is an American, only more so—it may most justly be bestowed upon Horace Greeley. Whatever he has attempted, he has done as well as, or better than, any one else had done it before him. A piously generous son, a perfect pupil, an apprentice of ideal excellence, a journeyman of unexampled regularity, perseverance, and effectiveness. His 'New Yorker' was the best paper of its class that had been published. The 'Jeffersonian' and 'Log Cabin' excelled all previous and all subsequent 'campaign papers.' The 'Tribune' is our best daily paper. As a member of Congress, he was truer to himself, and dared more in behalf of his constituents, than any man who ever sat for one session only in the House of Representatives. In Europe, he retained possession of all his faculties! In the presence of nobles, he was thoroughly himself, and he spoke eloquently for the tilting million. Emphatically, Horace Greeley is a man, sir, who has generally succeeded in what he has undertaken."

"But not always. He tried hard to get Henry Clay elected president. He tried long to wield the whig party for purposes of general beneficence. Neither of these objects could he accomplish.

"Of Horace Greeley's talents as a writer little need be said. A man whose vocation obliges him frequently to write at the rate of a column an hour, and who must always write with dispatch, can rarely produce literature. Nor can any man write with faultless accuracy who is acquainted with no language but that in which he writes. But Horace Greeley writes well enough for his purpose, and has given proof, in many a glowing passage and telling argument, of a native talent for composition, which, in other circumstances, might have manifested itself in brilliant and lasting works.

"His power as a writer arises from his earnestness of conviction, from his intimate acquaintance with the circumstances and feelings of his readers,

from his Scotch-Irish fertility in illustration, and from the limited range of his subjects. He says not many things, but much.

"His forte is, as I have said, in making practical suggestions for the better conduct of life and affairs. Like Franklin, he confines himself chiefly to the improvement of man's condition in material things; but he is a better man than Franklin; he is Franklin liberalised and enlightened; he is the Franklin of this generation. Like Franklin, too, and like most of the influencing men of this age, he is more pious than religious, more humane than devout.

"The reader need not be detained here by remarks upon Horace Greeley's errors of opinion. A man's opinions are the result, the entirely inevitable result of his character and circumstances. *Sincerity*, therefore, is our only just demand when we solicit an expression of opinion. Every man thinks erroneously. God alone knows *all* about anything. The slightest defect in our knowledge, the slightest bias of desire, or fear, or habit, is sufficient to mislead us. And in truth, the errors of a true man are not discreditable to him; for his errors spring from the same source as his excellencies. It was said of Charles Lamb, that he liked his friends, not in spite of their faults, *but faults and all!* and I think the gentle Charles was no less right than kind. The crook, the knot, and the great humpy excrescences are as essential features of the oak tree's beauty, as its waving crown of foliage. Let Horace Greeley's errors of opinion be what they may, he has done something in his day to clarify the truth, that no error of opinion is a hundredth part as detrimental to the interest of men as the forcible suppression of opinion, either by the European modes of suppression, or the American. He has made it easier than it was to take the unpopular side. He has helped us onward towards that perfect freedom of thought and speech which it is fondly hoped the people of this country are destined in some distant age to enjoy. Moreover, a critic, to be competent, must be the superior of the person criticised. The critic is a judge, and a judge is the highest person in the court, or should be. This book is a chronicle, not an opinion. And to conclude, the glory of Horace Greeley is this: He began life as a working man. As a working man, he found out, and he experienced the disadvantages of the working man's condition. He rose from the ranks to a position of commanding influence. But he ceased to be a working man *with* working men, only to become a working man *for* working men."

The notices of the origin and the progress of the cheap press of the United States, and the account of Horace Greeley's own share in bringing it to its present flourishing condition, we have read with much interest:—

"In the present year, 1855, there are two hundred and three periodicals published in the city of New York, of which twelve are daily papers. In the year 1841, the number of periodicals was one hundred, and the number of daily papers twelve. The 'Courier and Enquirer,' 'New York American,' 'Express,' and 'Commercial Advertiser,' were Whig papers, at ten dollars a year. The 'Evening Post and Journal of Commerce,' at the same price, leaned to the 'Democratic' side of politics, the former avowedly, the latter not. The 'Signal,' 'Tatler,' and 'Star,' were cheap papers, the first two neutral, the latter dubious. The 'Herald,' at two cents, was—the 'Herald!' The 'Sun,' a penny paper of immense circulation, was affectedly neutral, really 'Democratic,' and very objectionable for the gross character of many of its advertisements. A cheap paper, of the Whig school of politics, did not exist. On the 10th of April, 1841, the 'Tribune' appeared—a paper one-third the size of the present 'Tribune,' price one cent; office No. 30, Ann-street; Horace Greeley, editor and proprietor, assisted in the department of literary criticism, the fine arts, and general intelligence, by H. J. Raymond. Under its heading, the new paper bore, as a motto, the dying words of Harrison: 'I DESIRE YOU TO UNDER-

#### STAND THE TRUE PRINCIPLES OF THE GOVERNMENT, I WISH THEM CARRIED OUT. I ASK NOTHING MORE.'

\* \* \* \* \*

"The 'Tribune' began with about six hundred subscribers, procured by the exertions of a few of the editor's personal and political friends. Five thousand copies of the first number were printed, and 'we found some difficulty in giving them away,' says Mr. Greeley in the article just quoted. The expenses of the first week were five hundred and twenty-five dollars; the receipts, ninety-two dollars. A sorry prospect for an editor whose whole cash capital was a thousand dollars, and that borrowed.

"But the 'Tribune' was a live paper. Fight was the word with it from the start; Fight has been the word ever since; Fight is the word this day!"

The exertions of an efficient business partner, Mr. M'Elrath, soon secured continuous success:—

"It became, and has ever since been, one of the best-conducted newspaper establishments in the world. Early in the fall, the 'New Yorker' and 'Log Cabin' were merged into the 'Weekly Tribune,' the first number of which appeared on the 20th of September. The concern, thus consolidated, knew, thenceforth, nothing but prosperity.

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"The 'Tribune,' as we have seen, was started as a penny paper. It began its second volume on the eleventh of April, 1842, at the increased price of nine cents a week, or two cents for a single number, and effected this serious advance without losing two hundred of its twelve thousand subscribers."

In 1853 the 'Tribune' enlarged its size and improved its appearance, taking a long step in advance of any previous effort of Transatlantic journalism. During the debate last year on the advertisement duty, Mr. Bright produced to the House a copy of the 'Tribune,' a paper which, he was bound to say, was as good as any published in England this week." The words of Mr. Bright bear honourable testimony to the paper and its founder and conductor, bringing at the same time the subject to bear upon the question of our own press:—

"He ventured to say that there was not a better paper than this in London. Moreover, it especially wrote in favour of temperance and anti-slavery, and though honourable members were not all members of the Temperance Society perhaps, they yet, he was sure, all admitted the advantages of temperance, while not a voice could be lifted there in favour of slavery. Here, then, was a newspaper advocating great principles, and conducted in all respects with the greatest propriety—a newspaper in which he found not a syllable that he might not put on his table and allow his wife and daughter to read with satisfaction. And this was placed on the table every morning for 1d. What he wanted, then, to ask the Government, and by what contrivance of fiscal oppression—for it can be nothing else—was it, that while the workman of New York could have such a paper on his breakfast table every morning for 1d., the workman of London must go without or pay fivepence for the accommodation? How was it possible that the latter could keep up with his Transatlantic competitor in the race, if one had daily intelligence of everything that was stirring in the world, while the other was kept completely in ignorance? Were they not running a race, in the face of the world, with the people of America? Were not the Collins and Cunard lines calculating their voyages to within sixteen minutes of time? And if, while such a race was going on, the one artisan paid fivepence for the daily intelligence which the other obtained for a penny, how was it possible that the former could keep his place in the international rivalry?"

The late Margaret Fuller wrote some of her best pieces in the 'Tribune.' Among the present regular staff of contributors are Bayard Taylor, Charles A. Dana, and other literary men of mark. But the soul of the paper is its original founder, Horace Greeley, who may be regarded, in the phrase of his countryman Emerson, as the representative man of American journalism.

*Will my Readers go to Spain? or, Day after Day for Two Months in the Peninsula.* Brighton: King. London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co.

*A Month in Portugal.* By the Rev. Joseph Oldknow, M.A. Longman and Co.

As journals of recent travel in the Peninsula these volumes deserve notice, though not marked by any peculiar novelty or interest. The Spanish tourist, an English lady, brings back no favourable report of the land of her two months' sojourn. She is disappointed with the scenery, disappointed with the climate, disappointed with the customs, the religion, the people, and even the dark-eyed and mantilla-wearing women of Spain are spoken of with disappointment. Yet there are contradictions in her statements; for in one place, in describing a Protestant congregation on the French frontiers, she says, "all were extremely attentive, forming a strong contrast in this respect to Roman Catholic congregations, who are perpetually turning round and staring." At Saragossa the sight of the worshippers was "extremely impressive; so absorbed did they appear in prayer or contemplation, that not one of them turned round to look at us," which, she adds, however, is very unusual in a Roman Catholic assembly. The state of religion occupied a considerable share of the traveller's observation and remark. At Valencia this scene is described:—

"We turned to leave the chapel, and found that O—— had departed. The man told us, that we should find the 'Señor,' looking at the 'santos reliquias,' where we were to join him, and he sent a woman to show us the way.

"This is the place where the veritable bones of various eminent saints are preserved. We went along a passage, and the woman opened a door, and great was our amazement to find ourselves in a small apartment, with the floor completely covered with people on their knees. In the distant corner, I caught sight of O——, kneeling of course, and next to him, a Spanish officer. About the centre of the crowd, was a priest, and the remainder was a mass of men and women. N—— and I were obliged immediately to drop on one knee, as to remain standing was impossible.

"Along one end of this room, was an immense case, with a number of shelves, like a bookcase, and the doors of it were set wide open. On these shelves were arranged vases of various shapes, or rather glass receptacles, many of them in a pyramidal form, and a good deal of paper and wood about them. These enclose the reliquies; but as for what their contents are, not one of us could possibly see; they might be chips or rags, but we took it for granted they are bones, because we were told so. Two priests, in their white dresses, were engaged in the exhibition; one of them read the name of the saint out of a thick manuscript book; and the other, at the same time, pointed with a long cane to the vase which contained some of his bones. There was a bit of San Martin, and a great number of skulls, or parts of skulls, for 'La Cabeza' (head) de San Lorenzo, or San Antonio, &c., &c., was of frequent recurrence. Nearly the last that caught my ear, was some relic, an arm bone or fingers, for the pyramid was not large, of Santa Anna, mother of the Virgin Mary! A deep mur-

mur, expressive of delight, and I suppose also of veneration, here sounded through the whole assembly. I acknowledge that when I heard this, and looked upon so many persons prostrating themselves, body and mind, before such a collection of rubbish, I felt an almost irresistible inclination to laugh, and I had very great difficulty in restraining myself. I should indeed have much regretted being betrayed into any behaviour which might have been construed into an insult to the devotional feelings of those around me. For a moment, too, the thought glanced across me,—‘What doest thou here?’ Still, I could not feel that we were doing wrong in thus bowing ourselves in the house of Rimmon, where we had gone, through mere curiosity, to see, as we were informed, the bones of the saints, and where we had been shut in, and were of course obliged to kneel with the rest. The Spanish officer, a colonel in uniform, knelt with his hands clasped in an attitude of the deepest devotion. ‘Alas! devotion to a parcel of old bones which had doubtless belonged to more sinners than saints, and which had been grubbed up by the crafty priesthood to delude the multitude. As we left the room, the officer turned to O——, and said, ‘To a Protestant, all this exhibition is nothing.’ O—— replied, ‘We must make allowances for the feelings of others.’ When I look back upon the scene, it now appears to me stripped completely of the ludicrous, and as a subject far more of melancholy than of mirth.”

At Madrid the tourists took a stroll on the prado, and the following account is given of what they there saw:—

“We were much struck by the very superior complexions of the women, to those we had seen elsewhere—owing no doubt to the keen invigorating air. I am sorry to add, that every fourth person squinted: it became positively painful to meet them. No wonder Spanish eyes should be admired, where it is so rare a thing to see two together, and both looking the same way. A carriage stopped very near to us in the alcala, and seeing a very nicely dressed little girl get out, I turned to look at her. She squinted most fearfully. I then looked at her brother who followed her, and he squinted exactly the same.

“The children strike us as greatly over-dressed. The little girls have the brightest of pink or of blue bonnets, with quantities of gay things upon their shoulders and dresses, that it is difficult to see exactly what it is all adapted for. They look dollish altogether, and as if the children were a sort of locomotive machine, to exhibit all these fine articles, instead of the latter being intended to adorn their pretty graceful figures. I do not know at what age they take the mantilla, and surround themselves in sombre colours.

“I cannot consider the mantilla as generally calculated to become the countenance, and yet you constantly hear people say it is so ‘very becoming.’ It lies so flat on the top of the head that it gives a compressed look, and then the dead black, even if it be lace, against black hair, black eyes, and usually a dull complexion, has such want of contrast, such a want of colour, and it gives so hard an expression to the face, that to my mind no head-dress can be more trying. I have no doubt that many of the señoritas whom we meet and condemn, would look very pretty, if they had a bonnet with a wreath of flowers underneath, with pink roses to reflect a little on their colourless cheeks.”

The fair writer may not literally have a squint, but she must have some obliquity of vision when she spent two months in a land of so much romance and beauty, seeing so little that was pleasing or satisfactory. Even Granada and the Alhambra excite little enthusiasm: and the reply of most readers to the question, ‘Will you go to Spain?’ would certainly be in the negative, if it depended wholly on the report and recommendation of this book.

The tourist in Portugal displays equal prejudice against that country and its people.

“I must confess,” he says, “that I do not like the Portuguese, at least the lower orders. They are a familiar, inquisitive, uncivilized, idle, dirty, cheating, lying set.” This outburst follows an entry in the journal where “a lot of fellows of the commonest sort, some of them apparently servants of the Estalagem, stood and gazed upon us, and afterwards sat down at table, and talked to one another, sometimes in whispers. We could not help contrasting this with English customs.” Mr. Oldknow must have travelled little in England if he never found fellows of the commonest sort apt to do even more than stare and whisper in the presence of their betters. Such faults must be set down to rough humanity in general, and not to any particular country. The constant comparison with England and its customs is foolish enough, but the following counterblast against tobacco shows the writer of it to be unfit for travelling in any part of the world, except in first-class railway carriages and steam-boat saloons, where ‘no smoking is allowed’:—

“At six the next morning, we rode down about half a league to the boat, which is towed down the canal by two equestrians to Villa Franca, where it meets a steamer, which goes down the Tagus to Lisbon. The passengers were of an ordinary sort, several of whom gave themselves up to smoking. One opened his portmanteau, and immersed himself in manuscripts: another appeared to be making calculations with pencil and paper: some sat with their hands before them and did nothing: and some chatted sociably with their neighbours. To me the smokers were the least agreeable, for of all things I nauseate tobacco, whether stuffed into a pipe, or formed into a cigar, or I was going to say, pulverised into snuff; but this is by far, its most tolerable form.

“Pernicious weed! whose scent the fair annoys, Unfriendly to society’s chief joys,  
Thou art, indeed, the drug a gard’ner wants,  
To poison vermin that infest his plants.”

Southey says, ‘The Portuguese never smoke, but most of them take snuff.’ Things have altered since 1796, when he was here. I did not observe more snuff-taking among them than among other people, but there was no lack of smoking.”

Mr. Oldknow tells us he met with “a grievous loss—his note-book having dropped out of his great-coat pocket.” The book contained “detailed accounts of churches and convents, and particular descriptions of scenes and places,” of which only a general notice is now given. We scarcely think the loss will be considered a very grievous one so far as the reader is concerned. The worthy clergyman closes his journal with the expression of fervent thankfulness at arriving safely at his home in Birmingham, after a sojourn in a land where he had endured continual annoyance and discomfort. A traveller of this stamp is not likely to convey much entertainment or information to the readers of his narrative. The notices of the present condition of ecclesiastical affairs in Portugal are the most valuable portion of the work. One remark on this head we must not pass without censure. Mr. Oldknow ascribes the recent blight of the olives and vines to the confiscation of Church property by the Government, and the turning adrift of the monks and friars on the suppression of monasteries many years ago. Such interpretations of Providence are highly presumptuous, and professional feeling offers no excuse for the expression of them. In compelling multitudes of able-bodied idlers, living before on the industry of the community, to betake themselves to honest labour or to active Christian duties,

a great step was taken toward the amelioration of the country. It was so in England, and we trust it may prove so in Portugal also.

*Pictures of Palestine, Asia Minor, Sicily, and Spain; or, the Lands of the Saracen.*  
By Bayard Taylor, Author of ‘Life and Landscapes from Egypt.’ Sampson Low, Son, and Co.

THERE is not much in Mr. Bayard Taylor’s volume to distinguish it among the numerous books of Eastern travel. Most of the countries visited by him are those through which lie the beaten routes of tourists, and have been described too often to leave room for novelty of information. English readers will, however, be pleased with the narrative of an intelligent and experienced American traveller; and one portion of the journey, from Aleppo to Constantinople, through the heart of Asia Minor, is over ground not yet familiar to tourists. Sketches of life and scenery are what the author professes to give, eschewing scientific observation and antiquarian research. With what genial and glowing feeling our traveller wandered in the East, his valedictory reflections on turning westward show:—

“Farewell to the gay gardens, the spicy bazaars, to the plash of fountains and the gleam of golden-tipped minarets! Farewell to the perfect morns, the balmy twilights, the still heat of the blue noons, the splendour of moon and stars! Farewell to the glare of the white crags, the tawny wastes of dead sand, the valleys of oleander, the hills of myrtle and spices! Farewell to the bath, agent of purity and peace, and parent of delicious dreams—to the shehook, whose fragrant fumes are breathed from the lips of patience and contentment—to the narghileh, crowned with that blessed plant which grows in the gardens of Shiraz, while a fountain more delightful than those of Samarcand bubbles in its crystal bosom! Farewell to the red cap and slippers, to the big turban, the flowing trowsers, and the gaudy shawl—to squatting on broad divans, to sipping black coffee in acorn cups, to grave faces and *salaam aleikooms*, and touching of the lips and forehead! Farewell to the evening meal in the tent door, to the couch on the friendly earth, to the yells of the muleteers, to the deliberate marches of the plodding horse, and the endless rocking of the domed head that knoweth his master! Farewell, finally, to annoyance without anger, delay without vexation, indolence without ennui, endurance without fatigue, appetite without intemperance, enjoyment without pall!”

The general impression derived from the visit to Jerusalem was somewhat less favourable than has been described by many pilgrims:—

“Jerusalem, internally, gives no impression but that of filth, ruin, poverty, and degradation. There are two or three streets in the western or higher portion of the city which are tolerably clean, but all the others, to the very gates of the Holy Sepulchre, are channels of pestilence. The Jewish Quarter, which is the largest, so sickened and disgusted me, that I should rather go the whole round of the city walls than pass through it a second time. The bazaars are poor, compared with those of other Oriental cities of the same size, and the principal trade seems to be in rosaries, both Turkish and Christian, crosses, seals, amulets, and pieces of the Holy Sepulchre. The population, which may possibly reach 20,000, is apparently Jewish, for the most part; at least, I have been principally struck with the Hebrew face, in my walks. The number of Jews has increased considerably within a few years, and there is also quite a number who, having been converted to Protestantism, were brought hither at the expense of English missionary societies for the purpose of forming a Protestant community. Two of the hotels are kept by fami-

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lies of this class. It is estimated that each member of the community has cost the Mission about £4,500 : a sum which would have Christianized tenfold the number of English heathen. The Mission, however, is kept up by its patrons, as a sort of religious luxury. The English have lately built a very handsome church within the walls, and the Rev. Dr. Gobat, well known by his missionary labours in Abyssinia, now has the title of Bishop of Jerusalem. A friend of his in Central Africa gave me a letter of introduction for him, and I am quite disappointed in finding him absent. Dr. Barclay, of Virginia, a most worthy man in every respect, is at the head of the American Mission here. There is, besides, what is called the 'American Colony,' at the village of Artos, near Bethlehem : a little community of religious enthusiasts, whose experiments in cultivation have met with remarkable success, and are much spoken of at present.

"Whatever good the various missions here may, in time, accomplish (at present, it does not amount to much), Jerusalem is the last place in the world where an intelligent heathen would be converted to Christianity. Were I cast here, ignorant of any religion, and were I to compare the lives and practices of the different sects as the means of making my choice—in short, to judge of each faith by the conduct of its professors—I should at once turn Mussulman. When you consider that in the Holy Sepulchre there are nineteen chapels, each belonging to a different sect, calling itself Christian, and that a Turkish police is always stationed there to prevent the bloody quarrels which often ensue between them, you may judge how those who call themselves followers of the Prince of Peace practise the pure faith he sought to establish. Between the Greek and Latin churches, especially, there is a deadly feud, and their contentions are a scandal, not only to the few Christians here, but to the Moslems themselves. I believe there is a sort of truce at present, owing to the settlement of some of the disputes—as, for instance, the restoration of the silver star, which the Greeks stole from the shrine of the Nativity, at Bethlehem. The Latins, however, not long since demolished, *vi et armis*, a chapel which the Greeks commenced building on Mount Zion. But if the employment of material weapons has been abandoned for the time, there is none the less a war of words and of sounds still going on. Go into the Holy Sepulchre, when mass is being celebrated, and you can scarcely endure the din. No sooner does the Greek choir begin its shrill chant, than the Latins fly to the assault. They have an organ, and terribly does that organ strain its bellows and labour its pipes to drown the rival singing. You think the Latins will carry the day, when suddenly the cymbals of the Abyssinians strike in with harsh brazen clang, and, for the moment, triumph. Then there are Copts, and Maronites, and Armenians, and I know not how many other sects, who must have their share ; and the service that should be a many-toned harmony, pervaded by one grand spirit of devotion, becomes a discordant orgie, befitting the rites of Belial."

In Sicily Mr. Taylor was fortunate enough to be present at the Feast of St. Agatha, which is said to be celebrated only once in a century ; and he witnessed the beginning of the last great eruption of Etna, of which he gives a striking description :—

"The sound was the most awful that ever met my ears. It was a hard, painful moan, now and then fluttering like a suppressed sob, and had, at the same time, an expression of threatening and of agony. It did not come from Etna alone. It had no fixed location ; it pervaded all space. It was in the air, in the depths of the sea, in the earth under my feet—everywhere, in fact ; and as it continued to increase in violence, I experienced a sensation of positive pain. The people looked anxious and alarmed, although they said it was a good thing for all Sicily ; that last year they had been in constant fear from earthquakes, and that

an eruption invariably left the island quiet for several years. It is true that, during the past year, parts of Sicily and Calabria have been visited with severe shocks, occasioning much damage to property. A merchant of this city informed me yesterday that his whole family had slept for two months in the vaults of his warehouse, fearing that their residence might be shaken down in the night.

"As we rode along from Aci Reale to Taormina, all the rattling of the diligence over the rough road could not drown the awful noise. There was a strong smell of sulphur in the air, and the thick pants of smoke from the lower crater continued to increase in strength. The sun was fierce and hot, and the edges of the sulphureous clouds shone with a dazzling whiteness. A mounted soldier overtook us, and rode beside the diligence, talking with the postilion. He had been up to the mountain, and was taking his report to the governor of the district. The heat of the day and the continued tremor of the air lulled me into a sort of doze, when I was suddenly aroused by a cry from the soldier and the stopping of the diligence. At the same time, there was a terrific peal of sound, followed by a jar which must have shaken the whole island. We looked up to Etna, which was fortunately in full view before us. An immense mass of snow-white smoke had burst up from the crater and was rising perpendicularly into the air, its rounded volumes rapidly whirling one over the other, yet urged with such impetus that they only rolled outwards after they had ascended to an immense height. It might have been one minute or five—for I was so entranced by this wonderful spectacle that I lost the sense of time—but it seemed instantaneous (so rapid and violent were the effects of the explosion), when there stood in the air, based on the summit of the mountain, a mass of smoke four or five miles high, and shaped precisely like the Italian pine tree. \* \* \*

"This outburst seemed to have relieved the mountain, for the tremors were now less violent, though the terrible noise still droned in the air, and earth, and sea. And now, from the base of the tree, three white streams slowly crept into as many separate chasms, against the walls of which played the flickering glow of the burning lava. The column of smoke and flame was still hurled upwards, and the tree, after standing about ten minutes—a new and awful revelation of the active forces of Nature—gradually rose and spread, lost its form, and, slowly moved by a light wind (the first that disturbed the dead calm of the day), bent over to the eastward. We resumed our course. The vast belt of smoke at last arched over the strait, here about twenty miles wide, and sank towards the distant Calabrian shore. As we drove under it, for some miles of our way, the sun was totally obscured, and the sky presented the singular spectacle of two hemispheres of clear blue, with a broad belt of darkness drawn between them. There was a hot, sulphureous vapour in the air, and showers of white ashes fell from time to time. We were distant about twelve miles, in a straight line, from the crater ; but the air was so clear, even under the shadow of the smoke, that I could distinctly trace the downward movement of the rivers of lava. \*

"This was the eruption, at last, to which all the phenomena of the morning had been only preparatory. For the first time in ten years the depths of Etna had been stirred, and I thanked God for my detention at Malta, and the singular hazard of travel which had brought me here, to his very base, to witness a scene, the impression of which I shall never lose, to my dying day."

The present volume forms the second portion of a series of travels by Mr. Bayard Taylor, of which the first contained the narrative of a journey to Central Africa. A third and concluding volume is to give an account of subsequent adventures in India, China, the Loo-Choo Islands, and Japan.

#### NOTICES.

*On the Conduct of the War in the East. Addressed to the Government of H.M. the Emperor Napoleon III.* By a General Officer. Jeffs.

THIS translation of a pamphlet published in Belgium on the history of the Crimean Expedition, has received an amount of attention from the daily political journals of which it is quite unworthy; and the intimation on the title page that it is attributed to the pen of Prince Napoleon is a mere catch-penny. The narrative is untruthful in its details throughout, and its sentiments are too absurdly traitorous and seditious to merit anything but summary condemnation. "The Expedition to the Crimea," says the writer, "is a madness; it must be given up. The continuance of this state of things will loosen the cordiality of the Alliance, and end by dissolving it; they will destroy each other." But a little farther on the writer affirms that the Emperor Napoleon "has but to make a sign, to express a wish. England, inwardly worked upon by a youthful power, new and irresistible, will follow him to the end of the world."

*Assault of Sebastopol. Two Topographical and Panoramic Sketches.* By Captain M. A. Biddulph, R.A. Chapman and Hall.

CAPTAIN BIDDULPH is engaged in the engineer service in the trenches, and in the intervals of his duty he has found leisure to take these sketches, as well as other graphic delineations of the events of the siege, which have been elsewhere published. Of the arrangements for the assault of the town, as they stood at the time of the drawings being made, there is here a faithful and authentic representation. A few explanatory notes accompany the sketches as sent home, and additional remarks, with topographical descriptions, have been supplied from sources on which dependence can be placed. In intelligently following the history of the siege operations, and as prefatory to the expected account of the assault, Captain Biddulph's plans and remarks may be studied with advantage. For professional men their importance is obvious, and in this respect they contrast favourably with the majority of the views from the seat of the war, which are chiefly meant to catch the eye of the general public. Of the difficulties and perils under which the advanced works are carried on, some of the extracts from Captain Biddulph's journal give a lively idea :— "Nov. 22. In the trenches all day. Made a perilous visit to the advanced lodgment, to report what cover was there. From hence one sees quite into Sebastopol; but it is a dangerous spot, being quite enfiladed by the Redan, and the batteries in the rear of it. At present there is no cover for the approach ; and daylight coming, I had to make a bolt to the rear amidst rather a shower of balls. Nov. 24. At 5 P.M. started for the trenches, Chapman wishing me to extend second parallel to the right, till it approaches the ravine dividing us from the Redan and Gordon's batteries. Found Lieut. Martin, R.E., in second parallel. It was then nearly dark. We went on together. Passed through the approaches now complete to the first line of pits, and then walked up to the forward line on the crest of the hill, now occupied by our rifles, and where the cover was very bad. There was still some rather sharpish firing going on, and we bobbed our heads once or twice to the flash. We were just deciding that as the spot where we were was rocky, it must be made up with sandbags filled from below, when a minié ball passed through my plaid, making four holes in the folds, and through my pocket, a cigar-case, and pair of gloves ; and then, alas ! struck Martin, who was just behind me. I encouraged him, and laid him on my breast, while we sent for a stretcher and men. I found that though he was hit in the stomach the ball had not passed in, but had gone sideways into the hip. I feared for him, but comforted him, and sent him up, and went on with my work." Lieut. Martin, it seems, has recovered from his wound. Captain Biddulph adds, "I crept last night, in the dark, one hundred yards beyond the forward trench, and ascertained the nature of the ground. I could see right down to

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the fort at my feet." The two sketches now published represent the right and the left English attacks, the several parallels, batteries, and works being clearly marked. To the professional value of the work a good testimony is given in its having been published with the sanction of the members of the Royal Artillery Institution at Woolwich, to which effect a note is prefixed by the Secretary, Lieut.-Col. F. Eardley Wilmot, R.A.

*A History of the British Marine Testaceous Mollusca.* By William Clark. Van Voorst.

THIS work has little claim to philosophic merit, but it contains a valuable mass of observations on the anatomy, physiology, and habits of the mollusca, collected during the space of forty years on the shores of Exmouth, Devon. The chief portion of the matter has appeared from time to time in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History.' Mr. Clark has been most assiduous in his dissections and examinations of the animals of our marine molluscous fauna, but he is not happy in his generalizations on their characters and affinities. Some of his conclusions in reference to classification are rather crotchety. Scallops and oysters are classed as the lowest forms of bivalves, whilst the razor shells and borers are ranked as the most highly developed, under an impression that they have a direct relationship with the dentalium, or lowest form of gasteropod. Many other such anomalous arrangements occur, and the genera altogether seem very far from being placed "on the sound basis of natural position." The author, however, admits that it is hopeless to attempt "a rigid, natural, processional, and sequential progression," "Mathematical nature," he continues, "is not an attribute of this sphere; the votaries of that contention must seek for it."

Extra flammantia mænia mundi."

As a further example of the oddity of Mr. Clark's mode of reasoning, we may quote his excuse for not accompanying his dissections with any illustrative figures. "I almost think, though fancy may be equally expansive in both cases, that if one has any general knowledge of the subject, a particular description of any of the variously formed objects of nature would ensure as good a distinctive resemblance as if drawn pictorially from life; the only exception is the human race, in which nature having arrived at the extreme limits of animal composition, illustrated by there being the same numbers and quality of external organs in every tribe, the *chef d'œuvre* of her works may, perhaps, be better expressed by portrait than by description; but all the other objects of animated nature, even in the same division, differ so exceedingly from each other, for example, in the present case, the mollusca, that descriptive notes may possibly be preferable to artistical representation." This we take to be a very ambiguous sort of logic; and much of Mr. Clark's philosophy is, we fear, of the same kind.

*A Guide to the Mythology, History, and Literature of Ancient Greece.* By the Rev. Dr. Brewer, Trinity Hall, Cambridge. Jarrold and Sons. THE author of many useful 'Guides' to knowledge in various branches, has in this volume furnished a compact and comprehensive summary of the leading facts of Grecian mythology, history, and literature. For school use it is well adapted, while those whose classical education has been neglected, or who have retained few recollections of their school acquirements, will here find all the stock anecdotes, facts, and illustrations taken from the history and literature of ancient Greece, in a form pleasant for reading and convenient for reference.

*Photographic Pleasures popularly Portrayed with Pen and Pencil.* By Cuthbert Bede, B.A. M'Lean.

In photography and its popular pursuits the author of 'Verdant Green' has found a fertile theme for his peculiar strain of humour. It is most clever and amusing *jeu d'esprit*, both literary and pictorial. Extracts from such a work are out of the question, where there is an unremitting flow of fun and fancy. Underlying the smart nonsense which amuses, there is a substratum of sound sense and

useful information; and the book contains an intelligible history, as well as a laughable caricature, of photographic art. The illustrations are undescribable, but their cleverness and humour will be appreciated by all who are acquainted with photographic phrases and operations.

### SUMMARY.

Two parts have been issued of a work, to be completed in seven parts, *A Supplement to the Imperial Dictionary*, English, Technological, and Scientific, containing an Extensive Collection of Words, Terms, and Phrases in the various Departments of Literature, Science, and Art; together with numerous Obsolete, Obscure, and Scottish Words, found in Chaucer, Spenser, Shakespeare, and Scott, not included in previous English Dictionaries. By John Ogilvie, LL.D. (Blackie and Son.) The selection of terms is somewhat arbitrary, but the matter is valuable, and forms a miscellany of useful and curious information in all departments of knowledge. The Imperial Dictionary, with its Supplement, ought to be found in every library of books of reference. The work is profusely illustrated with wood engravings.

A little work on *The Principles of Colouring in Painting*, by Charles Martel (Mason and Newton), explains the principles of harmony, with directions for their application to the art of painting. It is a clearly written and practical treatise on colours.

In a little volume, *Soldiers and Sailors in Peace or in War*, by Herbert Byng, late of the 7th Royal Fusiliers (Chapman and Hall), recollections and sketches of the military and naval services are pleasingly put together, and an earnest and just appeal is made to the nation for the orphans and widows of officers being remembered in the appropriation of the patriotic fund. In aid of this fund the book is published, and it deserves notice for the good feeling displayed by the gallant writer in behalf of his former brothers in arms.

An elementary Latin manual, *The First-form Latin Grammar, on Analytical Principles*, by Edward Baines, M.A., formerly Fellow and Tutor of Christ's College, Cambridge (Hope and Co.), is arranged on the plan of uniting with the accidence an elementary knowledge of Syntax, by means of progressive reading lessons, the structure and words of which are systematically analyzed. The book may be usefully employed wherever teachers are at liberty to depart from the ordinary routine of conventional tuition in the classics. It will save some needless labour, undergone during the usual processes of learning rules by rote, which are rarely remembered after the pressure of scholastic discipline is removed.

An *Introductory Lecture delivered at Queen's College*, by Adolphus Bernays, Ph.D. (John W. Parker and Son), discusses various important points connected with modern female education. An *Introductory Discourse on the Objects and Advantages of Educational Lectures*, delivered at the London Institution, by Alfred Smeet, Esq., F.R.S. (Skipper and East), points out the advantages of this mode of communicating popular information.

A little work, entitled *Abraham and his Children*, by Emily Gosse (Nisbet and Co.), illustrates parental duties by scriptural examples. It is a very pleasing volume, which parents will find of true value in directing and guiding them in the management and education of the young, with useful hints also on their own personal and relative duties.

Subscribers to the Perry Testimonial will find, in *A Review of the Evidence before the Second Court Martial at Windsor* (Bosworth) by a Civilian, a statement and examination of facts not very favourable to the character of that officer, who gained so much popular sympathy for a season.

In the *Family Economist* (Groombridge and Sons), one of the most useful of the monthly periodicals, many practical receipts and suggestions on matters of household economy are contained. Part of each number is specially prepared for the information and entertainment of youthful readers.

The *Government Regulations for the Examination of Candidates for Appointments in the East India Company's Civil Service* are published in the form of a pamphlet (Stanford), the reports of the Commissioners and of the Medical Examiner being subjoined.

*Instructions in Book-keeping for Friendly Societies*, prepared under the direction of the Official Registrar, (printed by Eyre and Spottiswoode, for Her Majesty's Stationery Office), will be consulted by all who have the direction of these useful institutions. Also by the Registrar, Mr. Tidd Pratt, are prepared *Suggestions for the Establishment of Friendly Societies*, with tables of contributions for payments in sickness, &c., and for the purchase of government annuities.

Somewhat late in the day for attracting public interest, appear *Remarks on Mr. Croker's Review of the Memoir of Thomas Moore in the Quarterly*, by Nemesis (Orr and Co.). The writer, who seems from his vehemence to be a countryman of Moore, displays too much of the 'petulance' and 'resentment' of which he complains in the reviewer.

In *O'Byrne's Naval Annual for 1855* (Piper, Stephenson, and Spencer), the most recent and authentic information is given as to all matters connected with the naval service, with record of events of the past year, naval parliamentary proceedings, and other miscellaneous papers relating to the British navy.

In the Traveller's Library, Nos. 76 and 77 (Longman and Co.), are reprinted, from the 'Edinburgh Review,' with additions, two papers, *De Foe, and Churchill*, by John Forster, Esq., author of 'The Life of Goldsmith.'

A *Treatise on Trigonometry*, by George Biddell Airy, F.R.S., Astronomer Royal, originally written for the Encyclopædia Metropolitana, is published in a separate volume, revised by Professor Blackburn, of Glasgow University (Griffin and Co.). It forms one of the series of valuable mathematical treatises belonging to the cabinet edition of the Encyclopædia Metropolitana. Professor Blackburn has added questions, and made other improvements by which the work is better adapted for a class book or for private study.

A useful little manual, *The Young Ladies' French Instructor*, by Mlle. Tissé (Whittaker and Co.), is intended to assist in imparting facility of conversation and elegance of epistolary style to young pupils. The special instruction of this manual is not found in ordinary class books, and the pupil will here acquire considerable knowledge of the French language of good society, and of daily life.

In the cheap edition of the *Select Works of Dr. Chalmers*, edited by his son-in-law, Dr. Hanna (Constable and Co.), a volume of sermons contains the astronomical discourses, the commercial discourses, and sermons on public occasions. One other volume will contain all the remaining sermons of Dr. Chalmers left for publication.

In the Useful Library (Routledge and Co.), *Landmarks of the History of England*, by the Rev. James White, originally delivered in the form of lectures to a Mechanics' Institute, and forming a useful manual for those who have little leisure for larger and deeper histories. It is written with more liveliness than is usually found in brief summaries, and contains all the leading facts which every one ought to know regarding the history of England.

In the Run and Read Library (Clarke and Beeton), is reprinted Mrs. J. W. Webb's *Julamerk*, a tale of the Nestorians, and *Zenon, the Roman Martyr*, by the author of 'Margaret Catchpole,' the Rev. Richard Cobbold, M.A.

In the Select Library of Fiction (Chapman and Hall), *The Whiteboy, a Story of Ireland in 1822*, by Mrs. S. C. Hall.

### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Ackworth's Vocabulary, 18mo, cloth, new edition, 1s. 6d.  
Archer's Statistical Register of Victoria, 8vo, cloth, 15s.  
Balfour's (Prof.) Manual of Botany, new ed., p. 8vo, 10s. 6d.  
Broadhurst's Navy, 8vo, cloth, 5s.  
Clark's (W.) Marine Testaceous Mollusca, 8vo, cloth, 15s.  
Crimea (The) Its Towns, &c., 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.  
Exile, by Philip Phosphorus, crown 8vo, cloth, 6s.

[March 10]

Fowler's (G.) History of the War, 12mo, cloth, 2s.  
 Frébel's (F.) Educational Mission, 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
 Giles's Parsing, 15th edition, 12mo, cloth, 2s.  
 Gowrie's (Rev. H.) Hulsean Lectures, 1854, 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
 Hopkins's Exercises in Orthography, 18mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.  
 Kinghorn's (J.) Memoir, 8vo, cloth, 8s.  
 Latham's Handbook of the English Language, 2nd ed., 7s. 6d.  
 Laurie's Tables of Simple Interest, 20th ed., 8vo, cl., 2s. 6d.  
 Lee's (Holme) Thorney Hall, post 8vo, cloth, 6s.  
 Lindsay's (W.) Christian Law of Marriage, 12mo, cloth.  
 Loudon's (Mrs.) My Own Garden, square, cloth, 2s. 6d.  
 Lumley's (G.) Poor Law Election Manual, 2nd ed., 12mo, 5s.  
 Lund's Geometry and Mensuration, 12mo, boards, 3s. 6d.  
 Meredith's (C.) Poems, fasc., 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
 Montagu's (J.) Biographical Memoirs, 8vo, cloth, 15s.  
 Morris's Nests and Eggs of British Birds, 2 vols., 2s. 6d.  
 Neale's (J. M.) Lent Readings, 18mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.  
 Our World; or, the Democrat's Rule, 2 vols., post 8vo, 10s.  
 Phillipsohn's Development of Religious Ideas, 8vo, cloth, 8s.  
 Pictorial Bible, improved edition, Vol. 1, 1mpt., 8vo, cl., 12s.  
 Richards's (Rev. G.) The Champion, 12mo, cloth, 4s. 6d.  
 Romance of the Bush, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
 Rook's Profit and Discount Tables, new edition, bds., 6s.  
 Rowbotham's Derivative Spelling, new edition, 12mo, 1s. 6d.  
 Rowe on Nervous Diseases, 12mo, sd., 14th edition, 2s. 6d.  
 Royle's (Dr. F.) Fibrous Plants of India, 8vo, cloth, 12s.  
 Smith's (W. T.) Pathology, &c., of Leucorrhœa, 8vo, cl., 7s.  
 Taylor's (W. C.) Mormon's Own Book, cr. 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
 Taylor's (Rev. J.) True Doctrine of the Holy Eucharist, 12s. 6d.  
 Thomson's (H. B.) Military Forces, &c., 8vo, cloth, 15s.  
 Traveller's Library, part 78, Arago's Autobiography, ed. 1s.  
 Vica of Wakefield, square, 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d. mor. 2s. 6d.  
 Wathen's (G. H.) Golden Colony, post 8vo, cloth, 8s. 6d.  
 Webster's Dictionary, 4to, cloth, new edition, 2s. 11s. 6d.  
 Webster's Dictionary, 8vo, cloth, new edition, 7s. 6d.

## DISCOVERY OF A MEROVINGIAN CEMETERY.

We have been favoured by the Abbé Cochet with an interesting account of the discovery, by M. Lenormant, of a Merovingian Cemetery at the chapel of St. Eloy, Department de l'Eure, communicated by the discoverer to the 'Moniteur' in the following words:—‘It occasions an interesting emotion, to which no one is insensible, to assist at the discovery of antiquities in a spot hallowed by great souvenirs; but it is perhaps still more attractive to collect the débris of the past, when some unexpected circumstance happens to call attention to forgotten sites, the importance of which nothing till then had occurred to suggest. It is this which has lately befallen me, and under circumstances really extraordinary. I have passed nineteen years with the most complete indifference to a spot where an unexpected bit of luck has in a few days multiplied the most curious revelations.

Some few words of introduction will suffice before coming to our discovery. A peasant, while digging the foundations of a cottage, came on the remains of a building of which no one had suspected the existence. The rustic architect, who merely saw a quarry in these stones, tore them up, and put them in a pile together as materials for his future building. Such was the state in which we found the heap, and when my son came with the announcement that he had made out the remains of a Roman monument, I could not at first believe him.

The discovery made rapid progress, but without further detail, I shall simply say that in a narrow space, and almost always level with the surface, we found the head and other fragments of an ancient statue, the débris of the monumental pillar on which the statue had stood, and stones covered with inscriptions of a Christian baptistery, built with the ruins of the Roman monument which it had replaced. In an adjoining cemetery were numerous inscriptions, almost all traced on bordered tiles. For the most part these were very simple; some, however, were very developed, and several even in verse not devoid of elegance. The inscriptions, or fragments of them, amount to seventy in number, and we have not nearly exhausted the ground which has yielded such wealth.

A Roman noble named Serquinus, who appeared to have settled in this valley, had erected a monumental pillar, of which we found the fragments at about the distance of two kilometres from the centre of his villa, at the foot of the hill, on the brink of a beautiful spring. A detached tablet on the pillar bears an inscription, which has come to us almost entire, to the effect that Serquinus, in virtue of a vow, had erected the monument to Hercules Mercury, *Herculis Mercurio*.

It is certain that this *Hercules Mercurius*, dedi-

cated by Serquinus, had not the attributes of the son of Alcmena. He had half-boots on his feet, and a light drapery covered his left shoulder. As to the head of this statue, the only perfect part, it decidedly presents the ideal features of Caracalla, whom a servile flattery, which numerous monuments attest, was perpetually assimilating with Hercules. It is then beyond doubt that Serquinus raised his monument to Hercules Mercury, when the young emperor had attained the age of puberty, which places the presumed epoch of this dedication at about the year 210 of our era. Thus we have a certain starting point. We are led to think, by irresistible induction, that the preaching of Christianity, which caused the destruction of the monument of Serquinus, took place not much more than thirty years after its consecration. Setting out then from this preaching, the work of Taurinus, first Bishop of Evreux, for so many centuries invoked under the name of St. Taurinus, it is that the results of our investigations increase.

In St. Taurinus himself, I recognise the author of the destruction of the monument raised to Hercules Mercury, and the substitution for this monument of the baptistery, whose ruins we have found out and studied. In this matter we may rely on the historian of the Apostle of the *Ebroviques*, when he represents his hero ‘destroying everywhere idols and consecrating churches to Jesus Christ.’

Now that we know the origin of the religion attached to the places we have explored, the astonishment that we at first experience on beholding the marks of the veneration of Christians lavished on a monument fallen afterwards into oblivion, ceases before a precise and natural explanation. On entering the baptistery of St. Taurinus, and in imagination reconstructing it, we find ourselves encircled by the most ancient and most venerable souvenirs of Christianity. Our attention is first attracted by the monumental inscriptions, with which—at a time doubtless posterior to the erection of the edifice—they had decorated the screen of the *enceinte* on both sides. On the external face was the inscription, oft repeated at this period—‘*Fiat pax [intrabitur]*.’ At the bottom of the baptistery one reads—‘*Christe Sp[iritus] sus[cipe] or[ati]o[n]e [in nostram].*’ And above were figured the emblems of the first centuries—as the dove, the eucharistic vessel, and the chrism, forming a cross, on the arms of which were suspended the *Alpha* and *Omega*—an arrangement adopted as a protest against the Arians after the Council of Nice.

The impression caused by these objects, which carry us back to the fourth century, further increases on the examination of the fragments of the vessels they collect in the midst of the ruins. In fact we find there almost all the symbolism of the catacombs—the Greek cross, the different forms of the monogram of Jesus Christ, the mysterious fish, the palm-branch, with the exclamations noted by the explorers of subterranean Rome—‘*[piezez] Bois, et tu vivras.*’ A Greek formula, written in Latin characters, and which alludes to the sacrament of the Eucharist—‘*Vivas in Deo*, ‘*Vis in Deo*’—traced with so much elegance upon a red vessel of so pure a material, that, with the aid of this indication, one would hesitate to attribute it to any other period than that of St. Taurinus himself.

Then commences the series of names of those who have left this trace of their visit, or souvenir of their veneration, on the font of the baptistery, or on the wall which encircles it. This series is completed by that of the epitaphs of the cemetery, almost always accompanied by the primitive formula in *pace*; a double chain which seems to commence with the very religion of the spot, and is broken off, as demonstrated by the palaeographical characters of the inscriptions, at the end of the sixth, or early in the seventh century.

The study of the proper names we have collected furnishes interesting inductions. Forms purely Latin are especially to be remarked; some of a Greek origin; and only one, thus far, of a Gaulish appearance; so strongly was the Roman stamp set on the population of our districts.

The inscriptions of the period prior to the establishment of the German conquerors in Gaul has hitherto offered us no chronological indication; but, starting from the sixth century, the dates of the reign of the Merovingian monarchs appear, and begin to increase. But what must justly excite our attention, is the trace of persons who belong to history. Under this head, I scarcely think any sanctuary has hitherto furnished anything as worthy of interest as ours, since we read on the stones of the baptistery the name, and, in a manner, the signature of the son and successor of Clovis, Childebert I., and of St. Germain d'Autun, bishop of Paris, the contemporary, counsellor, and friend of this last prince. One reads, ‘*Germanus . . . fui anno s. M. regnante Childeberto.*’ The date is in Greek. The year 46 of Childebert, 557 of our era, answers to the period when St. Germain was raised to the episcopal throne of Paris. If, as seems certain, we have before us an authentic specimen of the writing of St. Germain, he doubtless also engraved the name of the prince whom he accompanied. This name is grouped in a monogram, according to the official custom of the period.

By the side of the monogram of Childebert I., and the inscription of St. Germain de Paris, one reads third name, which it is difficult to separate from the two preceding—that of *Clodoald*. This name presents an unexpected peculiarity; it is in a character neither Latin nor Greek; it is written in *Runic* characters, and is not the sole example we have found of the use of this writing. Another Frank, named *Herman*, had written his name in *runes* on the vessel in which he had doubtless received baptism. Nine epitaphs on bordered tiles present such names of persons of both sexes as we most frequently meet with among the Salic Franks, and two of these inscriptions bear their dates. Here then are indubitable examples of the employment of Germanic *runes* as far back as the first half of the sixth century; and of all the results we have yet met with, this presents the most striking proof of novelty.

Of all the writers of the Merovingian period, Fortunatus alone has spoken of runes:—

“Barbara fraxineis pingatur runa tabellis,  
Quodque grapyrus agit, virgula plana valet.”

Among the Runic inscriptions is a fragment which gives a date of the reign of Childebert I. This prince, who died in the middle of the sixth century, had then witnessed his subjects' use of characters brought from the extremity of Germany; and, if the name of *Clodoald* is that of his nephew, instruction in the national writing must have formed part of the education of the descendants of Clovis in the second generation.

Dr. J. Grimm, whom I have consulted on this point, attaches, as I had already done, a serious importance to the result of my discovery. He remarks that the character of these inscriptions varied both from the Anglo-Saxon runes, and from those attributed by Hrabanus Maurus to the Marcomanni, and approaches the Scandinavian, without, however, becoming identical with these. The O is common to the Anglo-Saxons; the F is only found in letters evidently of German origin, by means of which Ulphilas, in the fourth century, completed the alphabet of the Goths converted to Christianity. Certain forms of dialect, certain uses of letters surprise the venerable patriarch of German philology. In fact, this unlooked-for revelation of the language and the writing peculiar to the Salic Franks tends more strongly to distinguish this people from the other German groups, and carry them back remarkably to the Scandinavian side. This besides agrees with the poetic traditions common to the people of the extreme north, and the nation which founded our first dynasty.

The names traced on the Runic epitaphs, *Sigfried, Hagen, Sigebert, Ingomer, Clothilde, Nantchilde, Cremhilde*, are those one meets with in the ancient Germanic epic, or in the family of the Merovingians. As to the date to be attributed to these monuments, we possess positive indications independently of the manner with which they square with this rich collection. I have already

cited the fragment which formed part of an epitaph dated in the reign of Childebert. Another inscription which has happily come to us entire, runs thus:—"Ingomer, son of Hagen, in peace, in the reign of Clovis, Consul." The formula "in pace" is translated by *in Friede*. The title of *Consul* is transcribed without alteration, in Runic letters, *Konsoul*. Ingomer, then, whose epitaph we have, was no longer living at the epoch when Clovis received from the Emperor Anastasius the insignia of Consulship, and celebrated the event with triumphal pomp, as described by the father of our history. This took place in 510, and Clovis died the year after. This fixed point allows us, in accordance with the opinion of the most competent judges, to rank our Runic writings among the most ancient monuments, that are in any one's possession, of the language and writing of the Germans.

The use of runes was not recent when the soldiers of Clovis, established in our province, left traces of them at the base of the monument erected by St. Taurinus. Several savants have already recognised the Oriental origin of this writing, and one is authorized in believing the German and Scandinavian tribes, after borrowing it from one of the most ancient civilizations of Asia, had preserved it since the time when they still wandered on the shores of the Euxine. Thus still more light is thrown on the great march of nations from the south-east to the north-west of the old world, and our discovery will henceforth take an honourable place among those facts that have taught Europe the origin of its inhabitants.

#### TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

OUR natural history readers will learn with regret that intelligence has been received this week from Australia by Mr. Gould, the ornithologist, of the murder at Percy Island of his collector, Mr. Strange, making the third party employed by that gentleman in pursuit of birds, &c., who has been spared by the natives. Poor Mr. Strange, who was most zealous in his profession of collector, and visited England about two or three years since, with an extremely valuable assortment of birds and shells, has now followed the fate of his predecessors, Mr. Johnson Drummond and Mr. John Gilbert. The following narrative of the catastrophe is from the 'Sydney Empire' of the 21st November:—"By the arrival of the *Raven*, last night, we learn the particulars of a most foul murder committed by the natives of Percy Island. It appears the ketch *Vision*, George Maitland, master, left Moreton Bay, September 29, on a voyage of discovery to the northward, and arrived at Percy Island, October 15. Mr. F. Strange, the owner of the ketch (well known as a naturalist), and some others, went ashore that same evening, but returned in a short time, as it was then late. Mr. Strange told the master that evening, he should go ashore the following morning early, and try and have some intercourse with the natives. The boat accordingly was pulled ashore in the morning, in which were the owner, Henry Spinks, his attendant, Mr. Hill, passenger, Mr. William Spurling, mate, H. Gillings, cook, and a black fellow named Pieno. The party had not returned at sunset, and the master was getting uneasy and anxious, when, at ten o'clock, the boat came alongside with only Mr. Hill and the black in it. They reported they had been secreted since eleven o'clock that day in the crevices of the rocks, and had stolen the boat from the natives when it was dark. When they all landed in the morning they met the natives, who appeared to be very friendly; the party separated, Mr. Hill going up the mountains, and Mr. Strange, with Spinks, going to the beach in the opposite bay, and they agreed the boat should meet them there at noon. Mr. Hill was there at the time appointed, but found neither boat nor party. He then went to the place where they separated, and on his road saw the body of poor Spurling, stripped stark naked, quite dead, and thrown in amongst the mangrove trees. He could not see Mr. Strange nor the others, so he went down opposite to the

vessel, where he found the black fellow stowed away in the holes in the rocks. Pieno told Mr. Hill that Mr. Strange had been speared, and the others waddied, and murdered, and that when Mr. Strange saw the natives about to spear him, he told them he would fire if they came any closer; they still pressed upon him, when he fired and killed one of them; they then speared him, and killed the others. Pieno escaped by swift running, though the natives chased him some distance. After this catastrophe the master got under weigh, and brought the *Vision* to Brisbane, a distance of 450 miles, against a north-east trade wind, with only an able and ordinary seaman, as from the time of his first leaving Brisbane one man had been laid up with the measles, and the other had only just recovered."

At the meeting of the Assyrian Excavation Society on Tuesday, a resolution was unanimously agreed to, empowering the committee to act according to their judgment with matters as they stand. It was stated by the secretary that an income of at least £5000 per annum would be required to continue the excavations, under Mr. Loftus and Mr. Boucher, and that it would be in vain to appeal to the public for subscriptions adequate to this demand just at this time, more especially for a work of national enterprise which should be undertaken by the government. The trustees of the British Museum had been making some excavations at Koyunjik, under the direction of Colonel Rawlinson, and these had been joined, according to agreement, by Mr. Loftus and Mr. Boucher; but the government had declined, in the present state of political affairs, to continue the grant to the Museum, and the explorers are all now on their way home. Some exquisite drawings and photographs of slabs were exhibited at the meeting, but no hopes are entertained of getting any of the slabs home. Mr. Loftus is expected to bring home with him a further supply of drawings, and as many small antiquities as he can conveniently find means of conveyance for. It is to be considered that the Assyrian Excavation Society is not dissolved, but that its operations are suspended until better times.

When the English and French armies went to the East, we stated that the French Government, exercising its usual vigilance in the cause of literature and art, had charged a number of gentlemen to accompany or precede them, in order to make literary researches, and to preserve any literary or artistic treasures which might be expected to turn up in the perturbation to which the old Ottoman empire was to be subjected, after the slumber of ages. In a recent number of the *Moniteur* there is a long report from one of these gentlemen to the Minister of Public Instruction, which shows that the mission intrusted to them is being executed with intelligence and zeal. A number of Greek and Latin manuscripts, of great antiquity, have, it appears, been already found; the precise number of Oriental manuscripts in the different libraries, public, semi-public, and private, at Constantinople, has been ascertained; and the precise whereabouts of a treatise on Ancient Egypt, by one Abd-al-Latif, who flourished in the middle ages; of copies of the *Moadjam* at Boldau, a Geographical Dictionary of the thirteenth century—a work which throws great light on the state of Europe and parts of Asia at that time; and of other rare and renowned works, respecting which particular inquiries were ordered to be made, have been brought to light. Of course, the French agents will contrive some way or other to get all the manuscripts they may care for into their possession, and in due time they will figure in the Imperial Library in Paris. The English Government has not thought it worth its while to trouble itself with such matters.

Professor Christmas gave his introductory lecture on British antiquities, at the room of the Royal Society of Literature, on Tuesday afternoon. It was a disquisition on archæology in general, with some concluding observations on the light to be thrown by the study of British antiquities on the national history and literature. Some happy illus-

trations and striking anecdotes were given by the lecturer; but formal introductory lectures rarely afford much satisfaction. The next lecture will possess greater interest, if the history of the domestic life of our ancestors, the subject of the course, is at once gone into. The chair was occupied by the Earl of Carlisle, who, in a few appropriate and graceful remarks, referred to his appointment as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, which would prevent his longer discharging the duties of President of the Society.

The Bernal sale is exciting more general interest than any event of the kind since the dispersion of the famous Strawberry Hill collection. The articles disposed of this week at Christie and Manson's rooms have chiefly consisted of the Oriental, Dresden, and Sévres porcelain, some of the best specimens of which are said to have been secured for Marlborough House. The Marquis of Bath is also a large purchaser, having given £650. for a porcelain cabaret, for which Mr. Bernal only gave 65 guineas. It is described as being of the finest gros bleu, with wreaths of gold, consisting of plateau, with white riband handles, exquisitely painted, with two figures dancing to the music of two shepherds seated on a bank, in a landscape, a teapot, sucrier and cover, a milkpot, and two cups and saucers, painted with peasant children and pastoral landscapes. The prices have generally been high, and at the same rate of competition the aggregate price at the close of the sale will much exceed any sum named as a valuation for national purchase. Next week the sale will be carried on at Mr. Bernal's house in Eaton Square.

From Cambridge we have the following account of the progress of the University Library during the past year:—"The Syndics, having learnt that the books belonging to the late Professor Hermann were about to be sold by auction at Leipzig in the month of April, and being of opinion, after examination of the catalogue, that it would be desirable to purchase many of the books if they could be obtained at reasonable prices, directed the principal Library assistant to attend the sale, having furnished him with precise instructions for his guidance in making purchases. The Syndics succeeded by this means in obtaining for the library several books containing marginal and other notes in manuscript, as well by Professor Hermann himself as by other eminent scholars, viz., Valckenae, Scaliger, Hemsterhuis, Reisig, &c., together with many other valuable books which were not in the Library, and which in many instances it is difficult to find opportunities of purchasing. The total cost of the books so purchased, including all expenses, was £14l. 7s. 4d. In a similar manner the Syndics have directed purchases to be made in London, at the sale by auction of Mr. Maskell's and of Mr. Pickering's books. His Majesty the Emperor of the French continues to present to the Library, regularly, through the Minister for the Department of Public Instruction, the successive numbers of the magnificent series in quarto of the 'Monuments et Documents inédits,' of which eight volumes have been received during the past year. His Majesty the King of Prussia has supplied regularly, through the Prussian Embassy, the continuations of Lepsius' great work on Egypt and Ethiopia, for which the Senate decreed an express vote of thanks by Grace, Nov. 24, 1852. The Houses of Lords and Commons have continued to present their journals and reports. The Smithsonian Institute of Philadelphia, with their usual liberality, have continued to supply the Library with a great variety of presents, consisting not only of their own valuable publications, but donations from other parties, who have kindly presented them at the suggestion of the Smithsonian Institute, the latter forwarding them with their own contributions free of cost to the University. The Library has in this manner received an extensive series of reports and journals from the Legislature of Indiana; from Dr. Lea, Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the United States; from Dr. Bache, Superintendent of the United States Coast Survey (including a valuable set of hydrographic charts), and many other con-

tributions. The Honourable the East India Company, whose liberality to this University has extended over a long series of years, has during the past year, amongst other presents, contributed the second volume of Professor Max Müller's quarto edition of the 'Rig-Veda Sanhita,' of which they presented the first volume some time ago, and Dr. Mouat's Hindustani Treatise on Anatomy, with Atlas plates. The library is indebted to the same honourable Company for conveying from India a great number of presents both from societies and individuals. The funds are reported to be in a flourishing condition, 1700*l.* having been added to the funded stock during the year.

The Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society held their annual meeting on Thursday, in the Guildhall, Norwich, Sir J. P. Boileau, Bart., in the chair. Sir W. Ffolkes, Bart. was elected President for the ensuing year; and it was determined that the usual excursion should take place in the summer—the churches in the Marshland district near Lynn and Wisbech to be subjects of investigation. The receipts of the Society last year were 161*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*, and a balance now remains in hand of 50*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* The officers were chosen for the next twelve months, and the usual complimentary votes of thanks having been passed, one or two papers were read on local subjects, and the proceedings terminated.

The largest and choicest collection of books ever submitted to auction in Scotland is announced to be sold on the 22nd inst. and ten following days, by Mr. Nisbet of Edinburgh. It is the library of the late Lord Rutherford, in upwards of 2500 lots, all in fine condition, and many in choice old morocco bindings. Immediately following the library will be sold his lordship's plate and wines, in which he is said to have been not a little curious, and a collection of objects of *virtu*, marbles and bronzes, rare antique Sévres, Dresden, and Oriental china, Buhl and mounted clocks, a powerful reflecting telescope, and a few choice pictures by ancient and modern masters.

Paris letters announce the death of some literary and scientific notabilities. The first of them is M. Duchesne, keeper of the engravings in the Imperial Library in that city, author of a 'Voyage d'un Iconophile,' and of other works, and distinguished for his extensive knowledge of all that concerns the engraver's art. He was employed in the Library not fewer than fifty-nine years. The second is M. Hippolyte Bis, author of two tragedies, *Attila* and *Jeanne de Flandre*, and collaborateur in the libretto of Rossini's famous opera of *William Tell*. The third is M. Duvernoy, the naturalist, for many years professor of comparative anatomy in the Museum of Natural History, and noted for having assisted Cuvier in his great work on Comparative Anatomy. Another death is that of M. Séré, an eminent archaeologist, author of a 'History of Trades,' a 'History of Costume and Furniture,' (not completed,) and one or two other works of reputation. The death of M. Crozatier, one of the most distinguished bronze founders of Paris, may also be mentioned; he cast several great works of art—amongst them the statue of Napoleon on the column in the Place Vendôme, and the quadriga on the triumphal arch in the Place du Carrousel at Paris—a splendid vase in the possession of the Queen of England, and several statues in the palace of the King of Prussia at Potsdam.

The Académie Française has, within the last few days, made two new elections to fill up vacancies occasioned by the deaths of Count St. Aulaire and M. Ancelot. The Duke de Broglie and M. Léguvé were chosen—the former without opposition, the latter after a contest with Ponsard, the poet. We cannot compliment the Academy on its choice of either gentleman; the Duke de Broglie is a great aristocrat, a distinguished politician, and, according to all accounts, a very amiable man; but he has not the slightest pretensions to literature. M. Léguvé was scarcely heard of, except as a collaborateur with M. Scribe in dramatic pieces, until his recent lawsuit with Mdlle. Rachel. The damages obtained in that action were paid by M.

Léguvé to the Société des Gens de Lettres and the Société des Auteurs Dramatiques. Hence, perhaps, his present popularity.

The pictures to be distributed among the members of the Glasgow Art Union are at present exhibiting at 121, Pall Mall. For this year's prizes upwards of 5000*l.* have already been expended, and the show of collected pictures, while proving how much encouragement has been given to artists, cannot but be satisfactory to subscribers. Among the works for which the highest prizes have been given are the following:—*Watching the Combat*, by James Sant, 400*l.*; *Winter*, by B. C. Koekock, 200*l.*; *Durham*, by D. O. Hill, 120*l.*; *View in Venice*, E. W. Cooke, 100*l.*; *Landscape*, R. Niemann, 105*l.*; *A View on the Thames*, A. Gilbert, 100*l.*; *A River Scene at Noon*, Boddington, 100*l.* Some of the best pictures are not at Pall Mall, such as *Reason and Faith*, by John Faed, purchased at 350*l.*; *Dalmeny Park and the Firth of Forth*, Horatio McCulloch, 300*l.*; *Harbour Scene, Rotterdam*, G. T. Crawford, 120*l.*, which are, with others, at present in the exhibition of the Royal Scottish Academy at Edinburgh. The subscription picture of the year, a steel line-engraving of Frith's painting, *Coming of Age in the Olden Time*, has been finely executed by F. Holl. No engraving comparable with this has hitherto been presented by any of the Art Unions. The Glasgow committee act judiciously in providing an art work of real value to every subscriber, a matter of greater importance than giving the chance of a few costly prizes. Besides paintings and other works purchased from artists, members may obtain a chromolithographic fac-simile copy of John Gilbert's painting, *Spanish Peasants going to Market*. This is being executed by Mr. Vincent Brooks, whose work in producing Cattermole's picture of *Columbus*, in similar style last year gave much satisfaction. The Glasgow Art Union is in a flourishing condition, and deservedly so, from the spirit and judgment with which it is conducted. The plan of purchasing the pictures by a committee works well, and the excellence of the engravings prepared for general distribution will ensure public support.

In 1847-48, the Union had only 818 subscribers; last year there were 10,000, and the number will not be less this year, with the increased inducements that are offered.

A large statue of Beethoven, in bronze, has just been cast at the Royal Foundry at Munich; the operation was quite successful. It is by Mr. Crawford, an American sculptor, and is destined for the town of Boston. An equestrian statue of Washington, by the same sculptor, is also to be cast at Munich. This is destined for the great monument of the American patriot at Washington. A statue of Berzelius, the great Swedish chemist, has also just been cast in the foundry at Munich; it is by M. Quarenstroem, and is destined for Stockholm.

A newspaper in Chinese and English was started at San Francisco on the 1st of January last. It is called the *Oriental*, or *Tung-Ngai-San-Luk*. It is published under the auspices of an English Missionary Society, for the purpose of converting the Chinese in California to Christianity. Its Chinese editor is one Lee-Kan, who was converted to our faith at Hongkong.

A Paris paper announces a curious fact—the discovery, by M. Egger of the Institute, in an Egyptian papyrus, of an unpublished fragment of a lost tragedy of Euripides. The papyrus formed part of the collections recently brought to France by M. Mariette, who is well known by his discovery of the ruins of Memphis.

Mr. Maury, director of the Observatory at Washington, who is well known in the scientific circles of Europe, has been elected a foreign associate of the Academy of Sciences at Brussels.

The arrangements for the Opera at Covent Garden are yet in a nebulous state, but some of the stars of the season are beginning to be reported by rumour. First in interest is the new contralto, Borghi-Mame. Viardot Garcia, it is said, will return, and Crivelli, and Marai, and Bosio, who gained much in popular favour last season in spite of the excitement of Grisi's farewell performances.

Forms, we understand, is engaged. What influence recent events in St. Petersburg may have on the time of Lablache's return remains to be seen. Mario, Ronconi, and Tambrille may be counted on. Gardoni is spoken of. Fanny Cerito will restore some attraction to the ballet department. Of new operas, Meyerbeer's *L'Etoile du Nord* and Verdi's *Il Trovatore* are the most certain. The season will probably not commence before Easter.

The first of a series of afternoon vocal concerts, under the direction of Sir Henry Bishop, the Purcell of our day, was given on Tuesday at the Hanover Square Rooms. The programme consisted of glee, quartettes, and concerted pieces, selected entirely from the works of Sir Henry Bishop, chiefly from his early musical dramas. Among them was the quartette, 'Breathe, my harp,' first heard in old Drury Lane so long ago as 1808. The Savoyard quartette, from the *William Tell* of Sheridan Knowles, at the beginning of the second part of the concert, was beautifully given. Other familiar and popular pieces were most effectively executed by well-trained and well-suited voices—Messrs. Francis, Benson, Lawler, H. Buckland, and Masters Sullivan, Cooke, Walsh, and Norman. Sir H. Bishop himself presided at the pianoforte. The next concert takes place to-day.

At the Lyceum, a light and laughable piece has been produced, *Take that girl away*, a translation from a Palais Royal farce, by MM. Labiche and Marbel, in which an enthusiastic artist is at first enraged, and speedily enraptured, with a girl at the balcony of an opposite house. The performance of *Mr. Rockett*, the artist (Mr. Charles Mathews), is extremely clever and amusing. At the St. James's Theatre, a French adaptation of another class is *The Star of the North*, in which the everlasting Peter and Catherine figure, but in a mood less romantic than in the operatic work of Meyerbeer. This play is founded on an intrigue of *Catherine* with a French marquis, palliation being found, according to French morality, in the coarse and brutal treatment of his wife by the Czar. The St. James's company is partially reinforced by Mr. Elmore and Mr. Vincent, whom we have before seen in amateur performances here and at the Soho Theatre. Mrs. Seymour's performance of *Mrs. Oldfield in Art* is worth being seen. At the Adelphi there is a new farce, *Betty Martin*, in which Mrs. Keeley figures amusingly as servant-of-all-work.

The theatrical news from Paris is scanty and unimportant. The retirement of Mdlle. Rachel from the Théâtre Français, at a very early period, is now quite certain; and she is engaged in playing the round of her great characters in the old classical tragedies as a farewell to the public. By the way, one of the law courts has just condemned her to pay 200*l.* as damages to an author, M. Léguvé, for having capriciously refused to play in a tragedy called *Medea*, which he wrote for her at her special request, which she accepted, and which she began studying.

Mdlle. Crivelli made her appearance at the Grand Opera at Paris, on Monday, in *La Juive*, and was successful.

Madame Goldschmidt has been giving some concerts at Amsterdam and the Hague, and it is said she will sing this season at Exeter Hall.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

**ANTIQUARIES.**—Feb. 8th.—The Viscount Mahon, President, in the chair. Mr. John Leighton, artist, was elected Fellow, and the Marquis Campana, and the Cavaliere Canina were elected Foreign Members. Mr. George Scharf, Jun., F.S.A., F.R.S.L., read a paper upon some of the sculptured ornaments of a temple or group of buildings at Bath, discovered on the site of the present pump-room in the year 1790. He bestowed particular attention upon the celebrated head, considered by many to represent Medusa, which formed the centre of one of the pediments of the building. The head is placed in the middle of a large shield, supported by two flying figures of victory, whose feet rested on a globe, as shown

by a fragment still preserved of the right-hand figure; enough also remains of the left-hand figure to show that they were provided with large spreading wings, and that the folds of drapery were very much better arranged and executed than the published representations of these fragments would seem to indicate. He laid some stress upon the importance of not making the faults of the decadence period appear worse when copied for publication, it misled almost as seriously as when a tolerable specimen of art is flattened into perfection by the engraver. Mr. Scharf described the so-called Medusa head as a fleshy round male face, with long curling hair, full beard, and moustaches arranged in a generally radiating fashion to accord with the circular space round it, and of which the face was the exact centre. Among the hair snakes appeared protruding, and two large bird's wings sprang—not from the temples or forehead, as in other known instances—but from directly behind the ears, which partially appeared among the full flowing locks of hair. All previous illustrators, both those who believed it to represent Medusa, and those who declared it to symbolize the sun, recognised the existence of the moustache, which they generally designated by the term *whiskers*. Those of the former opinion expressed a belief that the sculptor had, in order to make the gorgon's head more terrible, added whiskers to the countenance; others sought, by reference to an engraving in Montfaucon, where Medusa was represented with moustaches and four wings, two from her temples and two, reversed, issuing from her jaw-bones, to establish their position. On referring to the plate quoted from Montfaucon, Mr. Scharf recognised the representation of a bronze *accera*, or incense-box, that has since become one of the ornaments of the Museum Disneyeanum. At one end of the box is a head of Medusa, but in the original no traces of wings or moustaches are to be found. They were purely the invention of the old French engraver. He opposed also the theory that this head was intended to symbolize the sun, adducing as one powerful reason that another sculpture belonging to the same building had represented the sun in a mode more conformable to the classic treatment, i.e., as a youthful head with seven rays issuing from it, in allusion to the number of days in the week. He exhibited a drawing of a fragment retaining a few of the rays, and of a more completely preserved portion of the companion piece, representing Luna, under the form of a nymph with her hair gathered, virgin-fashion, in a knot over the forehead, a crescent behind her head, instead of the more usual position, upon the forehead, and the dress, fastened by a fibula upon the right shoulder, left the arm of that side uncovered, in the other she held a whip, as charioteer of the heavens, which had been misinterpreted by many as the serpent-twisted staff of Aesculapius. Both this figure and that of the sun were placed in medallions of the same size, and seem to have been the centres of smaller pediments that flanked the temple, or were arranged on each side of the greater pediment containing the winged head previously spoken of. Mr. Scharf expressed his belief that this central head would be ultimately proved to be representation of the hot-spring itself, which comes bubbling up now with the same heat and equality that it seems to have done 1000 years ago. He quoted numerous instances in which streams are personified as old bearded figures with long flowing hair; of old men with beards and wings, as in the representations of Hypnos and Morpheus, where the wings indicate the fleeting character of dreams, and in this case he assumed the wings to allude to the constantly escaping vapour which distinguishes the hot-springs of Bath from other fountain heads. In the serpents he recognised the Cthonian qualities and healing properties always ascribed to these waters. He moreover remarked upon the double circle of oak leaves and acorns which surround the head, and expressed a belief that these oak-wreaths might symbolise oak-groves that originally surrounded the spring, for Bath is, contrary to the usual example of Roman colonial towns, situated in a valley, and shut in on all sides.

He referred to various instances, collected by Mr. Watkiss Lloyd, of chorographical coins in which the geographical position of a place was indicated in connexion with the personification under a human form. Mr. Scharf passed from the sculpture on the shield, which he observed incidentally was concave instead of convex, a circumstance that favoured the opinions he had just advanced, to the figures and emblems upon the rest of the tympanum. Below the shield, on the left-hand side, was a helmet of singularly un-classic shape, which, taken separately, would seem to indicate a reference to Mars. On the opposite side appeared the hand of a child holding an owl by the wing, and in this he at once admitted a direct reference to Minerva, who in her healing capacity, alluded especially to Proclus, who lived in the fifth century, would be most appropriately introduced. He called attention to the curious manner in which the globe upon which the figure of victory rested was encircled by a series of zones, interlaced in a very elaborate manner. He proceeded to quote other instances, from the gold coins of Augustus Caesar and mural paintings at Pompeii, where globes appear covered with numerous bands, and he referred also to the astronomically important globe of the celebrated Farnese Atlas now at Naples. Mr. Scharf mentioned that he did not allude to the numerous inscriptions and other fragments belonging to the same collection, because they had already been admirably illustrated and were well known. His object was to call attention to the interpretation of one particular portion, and he moreover expressed a hope that it might be allowed at a convenient time to procure plaster moulds from these works, as they might be regarded as the most important links in the great chain of late provincial Roman art that this country is known to possess.

**NUMISMATIC.**—Feb. 22nd.—John Lee, Esq., LL.D., in the chair. The chairman exhibited a bronze medal in honour of Olbers, the discoverer of the planets Vesta and Pallas. Mr. Vaux read a paper by Richard Sainthill, Esq., of Cork, on an unpublished pattern of the rupee of William IV., A.D. 1834, engraved by William Wyon, R.A., of H.M. Royal Mint, which Mr. Sainthill had procured at the sale of Mr. Cuff's coins, and which he considered to be nearly unique; and another paper by the same gentleman, on a rare penny of Henry III., reading on the reverse, ANG. LIE. TER. CIS. Dr. Freudenthal, M.D., was elected a member of the Society.

**GEOLOGICAL.**—Feb. 16th.—*Annual General Meeting.*—W. J. Hamilton, Esq., President, in the chair. The Secretary read the reports of the Council, of the Museum and Library Committee, and of the Auditors, which were adopted and ordered to be printed. The President announced the award of the Wollaston Palladium medal to Sir H. T. De la Beche; and in the absence of Sir Henry on account of ill-health, the President placed the medal in the hands of Sir R. I. Murchison; and, addressing Sir Roderick, first briefly alluded to the geological writings of Sir H. De la Beche, and he dwelt particularly upon Sir Henry's great merits in having been the chief author and promoter of the establishment of the Museum of Practical Geology, and of a School of Mines, on an enlarged and liberal scale. He also particularly alluded to the Geological Survey of Great Britain and Ireland, based on the Ordnance Maps, and of which Sir Henry had the superintendence; mentioning the skill and impartiality Sir Henry had shown in the choice of an able staff of naturalists, geologists, paleontologists, chemists, and mineralogists, who had assisted him in this great national work. The President also alluded to the success attending the establishment of lectures in that museum for the purpose of teaching the application of geology and the kindred sciences to agriculture and other purposes. In returning thanks in the name of his friend, Sir H. De la Beche, Sir R. Murchison fully pointed out the progress of Sir Henry's success in the establishment of the Museum of Practical

Geology, and particularly observed that the noble building in Jermyn-street, constructed in great measure from the designs of the director himself, to the imperishable credit of its author, stands forth as the first palace ever raised from the ground in Britain, which is entirely devoted to the advancement of science. Sir Roderick referred to the vast importance of the cultivation of the science of geology, and the arts of mining and metallurgy in countries so rich in mineral produce as Great Britain, her colonies, and her dependencies. He remarked that the School of Mines is admirably adapted to meet the requirements;—that Sir Henry himself and many of his best officers, who have with him laboured in the formation and support of this Institution, have sprung from the body of this Society;—that, bound by such ties of relationship, the Geological Society should use its best endeavours to have this noble and useful Institution maintained by the British government in that high position to which it has been raised;—and that it is the duty which this Society owes to science and the public to see that this Institution, though it naturally branches off into highly useful and collateral subjects of art, be never rendered subsidiary to them, but be permanently and independently sustained on its own solid basis of science. This our view, said Sir Roderick, will also be taken, I feel confident, by every enlightened statesman who may be placed in a station to enable him to provide for the future wellbeing of the admirable museum founded and completed by our Wollaston Medalist. The President then announced the award of the balance of the proceeds of the Wollaston Donation Fund to MM. G. and F. Sandberger, of Wiesbaden, eminent geologists and paleontologists. Mr. Godwin Austen, Sec. G.S., received and acknowledged this award on behalf of MM. Sandberger. The President proceeded to read his anniversary address; and commenced with biographical notices of some of the lately deceased Fellows of the Society, particularly Prof. E. Forbes, late President of the Society, Prof. Jameson, Sir J. Franklin. The ballot for the Council and Officers was taken, and the following were duly elected for the ensuing year:—**President**,—William John Hamilton, Esq.; **Vice-Presidents**,—Sir P. Egerton, Bart., M.P., F.R.S.; Sir Charles Lyell, F.R.S. and L.S.; Sir R. I. Murchison, G.C.S.T.S., F.R.S. and L.S.; Prof. John Phillips, F.R.S. **Secretaries**,—John Carrick Moore, Esq., M.A.; Joseph Prestwich, Jun., Esq. **Foreign Secretary**,—Samuel Peace Pratt, Esq., F.R.S. and L.S. **Treasurer**,—D. Sharpe, Esq., F.R.S. and L.S.; John J. Bigsby, M.D.; **Lieut.-Col.** P. T. Caulley, F.R.S. and L.S.; Sir P. G. Egerton, Bart., M.P., F.R.S.; Earl of Enniskillen, D.C.L., F.R.S.; Thomas F. Gibson, Esq.; R. A. Godwin Austen, Esq., B.A., F.R.S.; William John Hamilton, Esq.; J. D. Hooker, M.D., F.R.S. and L.S.; Leonard Horner, Esq., F.R.S.L. and E.; Sir Charles Lyell, F.R.S., and L.S.; John C. Moore, Esq., M.A.; John Morris, Esq.; Sir R. I. Murchison, G.C.S.T.S., F.R.S. and L.S.; R. W. Mylne, Esq.; S. R. Pattison, Esq.; John Percy, M.D., F.R.S.; Prof. John Phillips, F.R.S.; Lieut.-Col. Portlock, R.E., F.R.S.; Joseph Prestwich, Jun., Esq.; Samuel Peace Pratt, Esq., F.R.S. and L.S.; Prof. A. C. Ramsay, F.R.S.; J. W. Salter, Esq.; D. Sharpe, Esq., F.R.S., and L.S.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

**Monday.**—*Geographical*, 8½ p.m.—(1. Late journey from El-Mediné to Mecca, down the Darb el-Sharki, on the Eastern Road (hitherto unvisited by Europeans).) By Lieut. Richard Burton, Bombay Army; 2. Memoranda on Abyssinia, communicated by the Foreign Office; 3. Accounts of a Tour up the Gambi to Salum, by J. Smyth O'Connor, Esq., Governor, communicated by the Colonial Office; 4. Despatch from Mr. Gabriel at Loanda, respecting Dr. Livingston's Exploration of Central Africa, communicated by the Foreign Office.)

— Royal Academy, 8 p.m.—(Sir R. Westmacott on Sculpture.)

— Literary Fund, 3 p.m.—(Anniversary.)

**Tuesday.**—Medical and Chirurgical, 8½ p.m.

Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(On the Application of the Screw Propeller to the larger class of Sailing Vessels. By Mr. R. A. Robinson.)

Zoological, 9 p.m.

Syro-Egyptian, 7½ p.m.—(1. Dr. J. Lee on some Maltese Coins; 2. Mr. Marston on a Sarcophagus of the reign of Hophra; 3. Mr. Bonomi on the Bir-i-Nimrud.)

Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Professor Tyndall on Electricity.)

**Wednesday.**—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—(Herr Joseph Kumpa on a New Method of Teaching Drawing, involving the Principle of a Natural System of Architecture.)

Graphic, 8 p.m.

Artists' and Amateurs' Conversazione, 8 p.m.

Ethnological, 8½ p.m.—(1. On the Natives of Tropical Australia. By the late Dr. Stoddard, B.N.; 2. On the Australians of Two-fold Bay. By James Sydney Walker, Esq., F.E.S.)

B. S. of Literature, 8½ p.m.

**Thursday.**—Royal, 8½ p.m.

Antiquaries, 8 p.m.

Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Mr. W. B. Donne on English Literature.)

Statistical, 3 p.m.—(Anniversary Meeting.)

**Friday.**—Royal Institution, 8½ p.m.—(Dr. William Odling on the Chemistry of the Hydro-carbons.)

**Saturday.**—Asiatic, 2 p.m.

Medical, 8 p.m.

Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Dr. Gladstone on the Principles of Chemistry.)

#### FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Dresden, March 5th.

We learn from German sources that the late excavations in Argos have been tolerably successfully conducted. I do not remember whether I mentioned that, last year, a small sum (amounting, I think, to 260 Prussian dollars) had been collected by subscription in Germany, to assist Professor Raugabe, of Athens, and Dr. Bursian, of Leipzig, to carry on certain excavations in the Temple of Juno in Argos. They laid open the lower of the two terraces, upon which the upper terrace had been built during the Peloponnesian war, after the destruction of the original building by fire. They found the greater part of the pavement in its place and in tolerable preservation, besides fragments of pillars and entablatures, and remains of the roof, with painted tiles and baked earth. There were, besides, about three hundred pieces of sculpture, which had most probably ornamented the pediments of the building. They are principally, though not entirely, of Parian marble, and of all descriptions of architectural decoration. None of the pieces are perfect, nor are they of the same dimensions. Some of the fragments are life size, some colossal, but most of them below the natural size. There are many parts of basso and alto relief sculpture, consisting of arms, hands, feet, heads, and draperies, which fully show the characteristics of the school of Polycletus, which have hitherto been unknown to us. The head of a girl, about two-thirds the size of life, is of remarkable grace and beauty. There seems no doubt but that these fragments are of great importance in the history of Grecian art, and we must only hope that they may be placed in the hands of some sculptor who has the skill and knowledge to restore them. What would the *Ægina* marbles have been but for the master hand of Thorwaldsen? The results of these excavations have been lodged in a room in Argos, and placed under the protection of the authorities. We have to announce the death of Count Mailath, the well-known writer on Hungarian history, under very melancholy circumstances. He had lately been greatly reduced in fortune, and, if I mistake not, was quite blind; he lived with an only daughter, who acted as his amanuensis. Not very long ago he and this daughter determined to commit suicide, which they effected by drowning. Count Mailath was born in Hungary, but resided principally in Vienna. He was obliged early in life to renounce his career in the service of the state from threatened blindness, and general weakness of health; in 1812 he began his career as author, and has published many valuable histories and works upon *belles lettres*. He published some curious collections of old German poems, with adaptations and translations of the same into the modern language. Amongst his works were,—a History of Hungary, one of the

kingdoms of Austria, and one of Vienna, besides some volumes of his own poems, entitled 'Hungarian Traditions and Tales.' He was also a most extensive contributor to the periodical literature of the day. On the 14th of January, Count de Batines died at Florence; he was one of the most industrious and most celebrated commentators of Dante, and attempted to make, on a large scale, a bibliography of the great poet. He studied all the best MSS. and printed copies of the poem, besides commentaries and translations. His 'Bibliografia delle Antiche Rappresentazioni Italiane, Sacre et Profane, Stampate nei Secoli XV. et XVI.' is a most valuable contribution to the history of the earliest dramatic efforts, principally of the 'Mysteries,' of which so many curious copies exist without any date. Herr J. Schott, the Nestor of musical publishers and instrument sellers, died in his seventy-third year, on the 5th February, in Mayence; and in Antwerp, Monsieur Geelhand de Merrem, one of the greatest numismatic collectors of the age. He is said, amongst his other coins and medals, to have possessed the rarest and most valuable of those illustrative of Belgian and Dutch history. The great theatrical attraction for the last ten days here has been the production of Meyerbeer's 'Nord Stern' on the stage. The opera had been thoroughly and completely studied, Meyerbeer himself having assisted at some of the rehearsals; a great part of the scenery and decorations were entirely new, and the prices for the first few representations doubled. Notwithstanding the admirable execution of the performers, and the good will with which all worked together, the opera did not please the Dresden public. Frälein Ney appeared for the first time under her new name, Madame Ney-Bürde, she having married a few days before an actor, a Herr Bürde, attached to the Dresden stage. Herr Tichatscheck enchanted every one with his singing in the part of Danilowitz. Herr Meyerbeer was called out before the curtain, and has since received from the King of Saxony the cross of Commander of the Order of Albert. Der Freischütz was given in Dresden, for the two-hundredth time, to celebrate Weber's birthday. The quarter-century jubilee of Tichatscheck's appearance as a singer was celebrated here a short time ago by his friends; he was presented with a massive silver crown of laurel, awakened with the usual soft tones of music common to these festive occasions, and regaled in the evening with a *recherché* supper, in a room the end of which was adorned with a transparency, on which were depicted floating angels bearing tablets in their hands, inscribed with the names of twenty-five of the principal characters which he had represented. I am told that he received so many congratulatory letters from foreign artists and friends that an extra postman had to be employed to convey them. Monsieur Roger, the celebrated tenor singer, devoted the whole of the proceeds of his benefit at the theatre in Hamburg to the purchase of tobacco and cigars to be presented to the French soldiers of the army in the Crimea. Mademoiselle Claus has been playing with considerable applause in Vienna; and Madame Lind Goldschmidt, having appeared before crowded audiences at Hamburg and Hanover, is now making an artistic tour in Germany, with the intention of giving concerts in about forty of the principal towns. Emanuel Geibel, the well-known and popular author of the 'Alemannic Poems,' has just written a play which shows considerable merit; and a drama entitled 'The Pretender of York,' by Alfred Meissner, is to be brought out at the Burg Theatre in Vienna. The sermons of John Huss have now, for the first time, appeared in a German version; they are translated from the original Bohemian, and the first number has just been issued from the press of Grass, Barth, & Co., in Breslau. An interesting little work has just been printed at Hamburg, the proceeds of which are to be given to the Hospital of Invalides of the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein. It is called the 'Three Invalides,' and is written by Count Baudissin, nephew of the Count Baudissin who, together with Tieck, translated Shakespeare. The author of the

present work was a captain in the Holstein army, and took part in the wars of 1848, '49, '50. The book is very prettily illustrated by Otto Speker. Ranke, the historian, has just received an 'Order of Merit' from the King of Prussia, in place of the philosopher Schelling, who died last year.

#### VARIETIES.

'*The Times*.'—Mr. Walter (the second) was the writer of the principal leading articles for several years. Then during the height of the war with France, Dr. Stoddart became editor. Stoddart distinguished himself by his abuse of Napoleon, but when that "foremost man of all the world" was at St. Helena, Mr. Walter remonstrated, and Dr. Stoddart threw up his engagement, and started a 'New Times,' which unsuccessfully attempted to compete with the 'Thunderer.' Thomas Barnes succeeded Stoddart as editor, and eventually obtained a share in the paper. He wrote little, but suggested subjects for other writers, and carefully revised them: one of his best coadjutors was an Irishman named Sterling. Mr. Barnes died in May 1841. Contrary to general expectation, Barnes's successor was a young and quite unknown man. Mr. Delane (a barrister) who had charge for many years of the financial department of 'The Times'; his son John, who had graduated at Oxford, was appointed editor soon after Mr. Barnes's death, and has ever shown himself to be a shrewd, vigilant, and careful man. It is understood that he does not often write "leading articles," but his supervision is untiring. In 1847 the second John Walter died, his personal property alone paying probate duty for 90,000. He was succeeded by his eldest son, the third John Walter, who was returned Member of Parliament for Nottingham, without solicitation, in July 1847. We believe that he meddles very little with the management of the paper. The principal writers in 'The Times' at present (under Mr. Delane) are the Rev. Thomas Mozley; Mr. Sampson, who succeeded Mr. Alsager as writer of the City article; Mr. Robert Lowe, the M.P. for Kidderminster, who has charge of the Colonial subjects; Mr. Thornton, who writes the Parliamentary summary; Tyas "much renowned for Greek"; Macdonald (who was sent to Constantinople with the Fund for the Sick); Ward, a 'Quarterly Reviewer'; John Oxenford, the Dramatic critic; Davison, the Musical critic; and Dr. Richardson. The manager of 'The Times,' now for several years past—and really more of the editor than Mr. Delane himself—is Mr. Mowbray Morris, a barrister.—*New York Daily Tribune*.

*Joseph Rémy.*—The French papers announce the death of Joseph Rémy, a fisherman, to whom Europe, or, at least, France, is indebted for the production of fish in large quantities by artificial means. Alarmed at the incessant diminution of trout in the rivers and streams of the department of the Vosges, he attentively studied the habits of the trout at spawning time; and he saw, that by taking the precaution to preserve the eggs deposited by the female, and fecundated by the male, instead of leaving them to the chances of destruction in the beds of rivers as the fish do, young fish could be produced in any quantity. He made experiments, and they were remarkably successful. His discovery became known in time, and was at length taken up by the government, and it is now acted on in almost every river in France, whilst an immense "fish manufactory" for carrying it out has been formed, at the public expense, at Hémissous. From France, Rémy's discovery, and the system based on it, have travelled to Scotland, Ireland, England, Spain, Holland, Belgium, indeed, every country, and they will in time become universal. Although Rémy has thus attached his name to the artificial production of fish, it is singular that his discovery was mentioned in books of natural history as a scientific curiosity a century ago; but until he arose, the practical utility of it was not appreciated. By his means, rivers, lakes, and streams are made to teem with fish.

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